

PEARL HARBOR AT 75 TWO HOURS OF TERROR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

HISTORY

REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 36 // DECEMBER 2016 // £4.50

**CHARGE OF THE
LIGHT BRIGADE**

Rare photos from
the Crimean War

ROBIN HOOD

Who was the *real* outlaw that
inspired a medieval legend?

**LOST
TREASURE!**

10 mammoth
missing hauls
yet to be found...

PLUS

AGATHA CHRISTIE
SIR ISAAC NEWTON
BATTLE OF NORMANDY
MEDIEVAL CASTLES



POWER TO THE PEOPLE:
How Ancient Athens
invented democracy

FALL OF MARIE ANTOINETTE:
From nation's sweetheart
to the guillotine



Queen Victoria was royally amused

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Friedenstein Castle in Gotha, Residence of the Dukes of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha

Welcome



For most of us, **Robin Hood** is a story we've known so long we probably **can't remember when we first heard it**. And so it is for the story at large. Where does it come from? Who first told the story? And is there any truth in any of it? In our cover feature this

month, we search for the answers to these and more questions about this great medieval legend – perhaps the **most enduring story in English history** (p26).

But this is just one of the many fascinating stories we bring you in this issue. After a tumultuous **year of elections and referendums**, we travel back to Ancient Athens to uncover the story of **how democracy first came about** (p62). And we visit revolutionary France, courtesy of its last queen, **Marie Antoinette** (p69), for whom mob rule spelled disaster.

As ever, we have some incredible photography for you this month, including Roger Fenton's pioneering photos from **the Crimean War** (p55). Roger was one of **the first war photographers**, and his pictures literally changed

Howard Carter (left) opens the tomb of Tutankhamun (p81)



history. We've also **given our Q&A section a freshen-up** (p81), with a few new **fun elements** added for you to look out for each month. Do keep writing in with your **questions for our panel of experts**, or indeed with your thoughts on anything else you've read this issue. We always **love to hear from you!**

Paul

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our Christmas issue, on sale 8 December

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ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

3,500

Approximate number of American casualties during Japan's raid on Pearl Harbor. See page 20.

27

The number of grievances against King George III and the British crown listed in the American Declaration of Independence. See page 83.

50m

The gangster 'Dutch' Schultz buried \$50m in New York State before dying. X marks the spot... See page 52.

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Isaac Newton

Read about the life of the egotistical genius, inventor and politicianp45

Top Ten: Lost Treasures

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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

CRACKING THE CASE

As a subscriber to your magazine, I wait in anticipation each month for its delivery. The November issue contains one article of great interest – 'Britain's Unsolved Crimes'. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is mentioned.

before marrying an English woman. The family was frequently subjected to prejudice and harassment, which culminated in the conviction of their eldest son, George, a Birmingham solicitor.

Edalji had been convicted of killing a pony in August 1903

“The family of George Edalji was frequently subjected to prejudice and harassment”

Conan Doyle once turned detective himself, to clear the name of George Edalji. He was the son of Rev Sharpurji Edalji, in the parish of Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay, Staffordshire, where I grew up. Edalji's father was originally from Mumbai, and had converted to Christianity

and was sentenced to seven years in prison. In October 1906, Edalji was released, because the sentence given was considered too harsh, but his name was still not cleared. Determined to clear his name, Edalji wrote a series of articles for *The Umpire* newspaper, which Conan Doyle read and


decided to help solve the puzzle.

The way that the police handled the case was not entirely thorough and not at all impartial. Edalji was accused of being part of a gang, but the elderly residents of the area who claimed knowledge of members of the gang are all now deceased. They may have been the fount of fertile imaginations, as no concrete evidence exists. Thanks to

Conan Doyle's campaigning, Edalji was given a pardon in May 1907.

Even today, Edalji's innocence is debated. Many have shown an interest in Edalji's case, notably Man Booker Prize-winning author Julian Barnes, whose novel *Arthur & George* (2005) is based on the story.

Peter wins a copy of *The Apprentice of Split Crow Lane* by Jane Housham (£20, Riverrun). It tells, for the first time, the gruesome tale of an 1866 child murder – adding modern insight to the murderer's motives and the system that incarcerated them.

 This is the best magazine that comes to visit me once a month, thanks!
Mark McKenzie

VILLAINOUS VICTOR

William the Conqueror (October 2016) seems to be the villain of the 1066 story. He had no rightful claim on England, and tricked Harold into an allegiance by making him swear on relics without him realising

it. His reputation of being illegitimate made him seek bigger kingdoms, and thousands died for his insecurities. The harrowing of the North and other terrible prosecutions he laid on the conquered people makes him a tyrant, not a king. So it's not really surprising that he died slaughtering as all tyrants do, living just long enough to beg forgiveness from monks for the terrible things he had done.

Matthew Wilson,
Wolverhampton

FRAUD

Was William I a true king or an insecure, illegitimate tyrant?

RACE AGAINST TIME

Sir Humphrey Davy was not the first with a miner's safety lamp (I Read the News, November 2016), though he gets all the credit. After an explosion at Killingworth Colliery in 1814, the engine man, George Stephenson, resolved to do something about it. In 1815, he set off to try his invention at a place where gas was known to seep in. Stephenson lit his lamp and walked towards the danger zone. There was no explosion. The Northeast was jubilant. The

lamp removed the fear of death by explosion. For the colliery owners, areas of the pits that were previously too dangerous could now be mined.

Stephenson produced a second lamp that was tested on 4 November 1815. Four days later, London scientist Sir Humphrey Davy demonstrated a similar lamp to members of the Royal Society. When they found out about Stephenson's lamp, Davy's friends were indignant. Likewise, friends of Stephenson were angry that Humphrey was given £2,000 while Stephenson was given £100. A subscription to justly reward Stephenson raised £1,000, part of which bought a silver tankard engraved with credit for the invention.

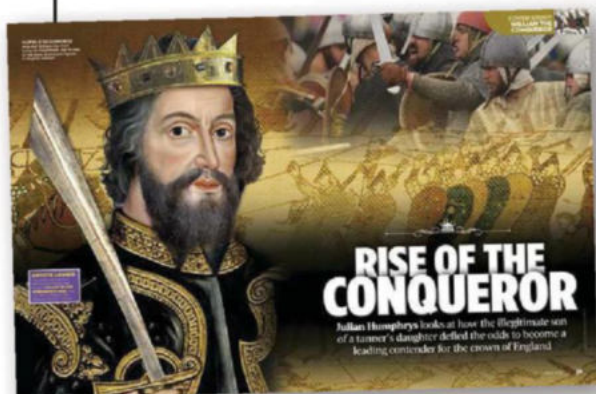
John Grove, via email



LETTER
OF THE
MONTH

NOT HORSEING AROUND

Another unsolved crime for our list – the Great Wyrley Outrages



WHAT IF?

If Annie Oakley had shot the Kaiser in 1889, it's unlikely to have changed very much (Extraordinary Tale, November 2016). The undercurrent of seething political discontent released by industrial technology probably made WWI inevitable. The Kaiser being replaced by somebody more stable might have delayed the outbreak of WWI, but not by very much, as most of the European countries needed a short war to distract attention away from the growing social unrest. But it would certainly be fascinating to see what may have happened if he was shot. **James Wells**, via email

BOND IN ACTION

Your excellent article on the Bletchley Park codebreakers (October 2016) mentioned that James Bond creator Ian Fleming proposed a plan, dubbed Operation Ruthless, to capture German navy codebooks. Though it was never carried out, it makes for a very interesting story nonetheless. During World War II, Fleming served as the Assistant to the Director of Naval Intelligence. In September 1940, knowing that the Germans had a boat in the English Channel to rescue downed airmen, he suggested an audacious plan.

A crew of British airmen in a captured German plane would fly out over the Channel, send a distress call and then deliberately crash into the sea. When the German rescue boat arrived, its crew would be killed and the boat, hopefully with the codebooks on board, would be taken to a British port. However, questions were raised as to whether the aircrew would survive the crash and, whether the German boat would reach them before the aircraft sank. As the doubts piled up, Operation Ruthless was cancelled.

Paul George, Cornwall

CLOSED COUNTRY?

In Giles Milton's article 'In the Land of the Rising Sun' (July 2016), he states that "the Dutch



LITTLE MISS NOT-SO-SURE SHOT?

Oakley shot a cigarette out of the Kaiser's mouth, but what would have happened if she shot him? Would WWI still have broken out?

and the English reluctantly concluded that trade with Japan was no longer tenable. Before long, they followed their southern European counterparts in shutting up shop." It is true that the English left Hirado in 1623, but the Dutch still remained, until they were actually banished to the island of Dejima in 1638 as a result of Tokugawa Shogun Iemitsu's Closed Country Edict of 1635, known as Sakoku. This was a system in which strict regulations were applied to commerce and foreign relations, and stated that the only European influence permitted was the Dutch factory at Dejima. They continued to trade at Dejima for the next 230 years of the Tokugawa Shogunate, until the Meiji Restoration, which in 1868 restored full contact with all Westerners and merchants.

Monica De Knecht, Australia

CORRECTIONS

• In our November issue, we said that Nancy Astor was the UK's first female MP. We should have said that she was the first to take her seat. Constance Markievicz was elected prior to this but, like all Sinn Féin MPs, refused to take her seat.

Giles Milton replies:

You are absolutely right in saying that the Dutch – unlike the English – continued to trade with Japan during the Japanese period of Sakoku. But they, in common with all international traders, were forbidden from setting foot on mainland Japan and were confined to a small and isolated island – Dejima – in the bay of Nagasaki.

According to the latest @HistoryRevMag, flirty beaus used to filter canary wine through their ladies' drawers. Another tradition sadly lost. @John Bizzell

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 34 are:
A Lunness, Tyne and Wear
F Warr, Warwickshire
E Zhelezina, Cambridge

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of **Long Shadow: The Great War**. Historian David Reynolds journeys across Europe to find out how World War I still affects and shapes our lives, even a century later.

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C/O Immediate Media,
3330 Pacific Ave,
Suite 500, Virginia Beach VA 23451

HISTORY REVEALED

EDITORIAL

Editor Paul McGuinness
paul.mcguinness@historyrevealed.com
Production Editor Alicea Francis
alicea.francois@historyrevealed.com
Staff Writer Alice Barnes-Brown
alice.barnes-brown@historyrevealed.com

ART

Art Editor Sheu-Kuei Ho
Picture Editor Rosie McPherson
Illustrators Jonty Clark, Dawn Cooper, Esther Curtis, Sue Gent, Chris Stocker

CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS

Emily Brand, Anna Harris, Julian Humphrys, Greg Jenner, Pat Kinsella, Sandra Lawrence, Rupert Matthews, Jonathan Meakin, Gavin Mortimer, Jeremy Pound, Jheni Osman, Gordon O'Sullivan, Kirsty Ralston, Jem Roberts, Miles Russell, Richard Smyth, Nige Tassell

PRESS & PR

Communications Manager
Dominic Lobley 020 7150 5015
dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager Helen Seymour

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Group Advertising Manager
Tom Drew tom.drew@immediate.co.uk

Advertisement Manager

Sam Jones 0117 314 8847

sam.jones@immediate.co.uk

Brand Sales Executive

Sam Evanson 0117 314 8754

sam.evanson@immediate.co.uk

Subscriptions Director

Jacky Perales-Morris

Senior Direct Marketing Executive

Natalie Medler

PRODUCTION

Production Director Sarah Powell

Production Co-ordinator

Emily Mounter

Ad Co-ordinator Jade O'Halloran

Ad Designer Rachel Shircore

Reprographics Rob Fletcher,

Tony Hunt, Chris Sutcliffe

PUBLISHING

Publisher David Musgrove

Publishing Director Andy Healy

Managing Director Andy Marshall

Chairman Stephen Alexander

Deputy Chairman Peter Phippen

CEO Tom Bureau

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IMMEDIATE MEDIA





SNAPSHOT

1946 FLIGHT ON THE TILES

At Northolt airport, London, thick snow had built up on this Douglas DC-3's fuselage and wings. It managed to take off, but was too heavy to gain height at the necessary rate. After just half a mile, the plane slammed into the top of two semi-detached houses on Angus Drive, Ruislip. The four crew and single passenger survived almost unscathed, and the occupants of the houses were unhurt. The pilot, Captain WJ Johnson, earned himself the nickname 'Rooftops Johnson'.







TIME CAPSULE
DECEMBER



A black and white photograph of a hand holding a bunch of bananas against a textured wall. The hand is wearing a white sleeve and a dark glove. The bananas are dark and have some spots. The wall is made of concrete or stone and has a rough texture. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows.

SNAPSHOT

1945 BANANA BOAT DOCKS

In November 1940, the British Government imposed a total ban on bananas, declaring that oranges were the only fruit that could be imported for the duration of the war. In 1942, children aged between five and seven years who were questioned about the squidgy, yellow fruit, did not believe that the banana actually existed. On 30 December 1945, SS *Tilapa* docked in Bristol with the first cargo of bananas to be seen in the UK for over five years. Imagine the looks on all those little faces...



SNAPSHOT

1931 SINK OR SWING

The Dubh Artach ('black rock' in Gaelic) lighthouse stands 18 miles west of Colonsay in the Southern Hebrides. After more than 50 ships had been wrecked on the Torrin rocks, in 1866 pioneering Scottish lighthouse designer Thomas Stevenson was tasked with constructing a tower that could withstand 92-foot-high waves. For the lighthouse keepers, getting to work was a job in itself. At low tide, the landing stage is 40 feet above sea level, and the only way to get on and off the boat for your shift was via precarious ropes dangling from a derrick. This perilous rope-swing ride continued until Dubh Artach was automated in 1971, and a helipad installed for maintenance workers. Thomas's son, Robert Louis Stevenson, used Dubh Artach as the setting for David Balfour's shipwreck in his novel *Kidnapped*.







"I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **December**



PAUPER'S GRAVE? 1791 MOZART'S FUNERAL

In the film *Amadeus*, the Classical composer Mozart's body is dumped out of a reusable coffin into a mass grave. But that's not entirely accurate. Mozart died on 5 December 1791, and records show that **he was sealed in a wooden coffin and buried with four or five other people**. This was a typical 'third class' funeral, which is how most of Vienna would have been laid to rest in the 1700s.

GOING SOUTH 1939 GONE WITH THE WIND PREMIERE

The premiere of the Civil War romance *Gone With the Wind* was held in the racially segregated state of Georgia. **Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American Oscar nominee** for her role as Mammy, along with other black cast members, were barred from the viewing. **When Clark Gable found out he threatened a boycott**, but McDaniel convinced him to attend.



The greatest screen entertainment of all time!

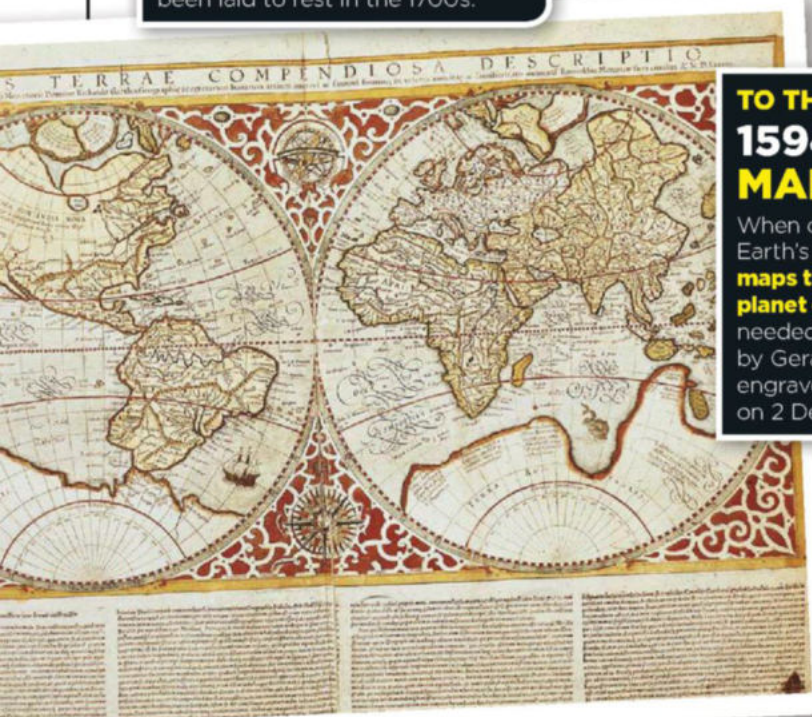
FRANKLY MY DEAR...

This Civil War epic remains the highest-grossing film of all time (when adjusted for inflation). Its star, **Clark Gable, did give a damn** about Atlanta's Jim Crow laws that prevented black actors from attending the premiere.



YOUR MONEY OR A WIFE 1926 ITALY'S BACHELOR TAX

In an effort to combat falling marriage rates and encourage Italians to produce large families (**Mussolini called for Italian women to have at least a dozen children**), on 19 December 1926 the Government passed the bachelor tax. When the marriage rate didn't rise, the tax was doubled in 1928 and increased again in 1934 and 1936, by which point **Italian bachelors were paying nearly double the normal income tax rate**. The tax remained till 1943.



TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 1594 GREATEST MAPMAKER DIES

When conclusive evidence for the Earth's roundness was produced, **maps that could depict a spherical planet on a flat surface** were now needed. The best were those created by Gerardus Mercator - a Flemish engraver and calligrapher, who died on 2 December 1594.

THEY'VE GOT IT INFAMY AD 69 THE FOUR EMPERORS

After Nero killed himself in AD 68, **Rome went through emperors like nobody's business**. First was Galba, who was bumped off by his rival, Otho, who then committed suicide and was replaced by Vitellius. Otho's supporters weren't happy as they backed Vespasian, who, in the December of AD 69, despatched Vitellius and got himself **the top job**. Vespasian hung in there for ten years.

WITH THE WIND



FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS 1098 CRUSADERS' COOK-UP

In November 1098, thousands of Crusaders besieged the city of Maarat in modern-day Syria. At first, the city's high walls and deep ditches kept the attackers out, until the Crusaders built a siege tower. By 11 December it was ready, and the **exhausted and starving knights clambered up and over**. Finding there was nothing much to eat, **the ravenous invaders resorted to cannibalism**. "They boiled pagan adults in cooking-pots and impaled children on spits, devouring them grilled," according to Ralph of Caen.



"...OH BOY"

December events that changed the world

25 DECEMBER 1066 WILLIAM CONQUERS

The Norman invader William the Conqueror is crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey after he defeats and kills King Harold at the Battle of Hastings.

29 DECEMBER 1170 MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL

Following a dispute between the Crown and the Church about power, Thomas Becket's time as Archbishop of Canterbury ends in his spectacular murder at the altar of Canterbury Cathedral by Henry II's followers.

16 DECEMBER 1620 PILGRIMS REACH AMERICA

The Mayflower, which set sail from Plymouth, England, on 6 September, drops anchor in the New World. The 102 passengers, who settle in modern-day Massachusetts, believe they have been led by God.

8 DECEMBER 1864 BRUNEL'S BRIDGE OPENS

One of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's greatest achievements - the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol - is opened five years after his death.

1 DECEMBER 1955 RACE LAW CHALLENGED

Rosa Parks defies segregation laws and is arrested by police in Montgomery, Alabama, after refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white person.

4 DECEMBER 1961 CONTRACEPTION FOR ALL

The birth-control pill becomes universally available on the National Health Service.

16 DECEMBER 1969 DEATH PENALTY ABOLISHED

British MPs vote by a large majority for the abolition of the death penalty for murder.

AND FINALLY...

On 31 December 1759, **one Arthur Guinness signed a 9,000-year lease on a brewery** at St James's Gate, Dublin, for an annual rent of £45. The company, which became known by his surname, now sells **1.8 billion pints** of stout each year.

CAN YOU CLICK IT? 1968 COMPUTER MOUSE DEBUT

At a computer conference on 9 December 1968, a hand-held, wood-encased gadget with wheels, invented by computer visionary Douglas C Engelbart, wowed the delegates. **The 'X-Y position indicator'**, as Engelbart called it, allowed the user to navigate virtual desktops with clicks and taps for the very first time.





DAILY SKETCH, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1926

WOMAN WINS OUR £400 PICTURE PUZZLE PRIZE

DAILY SKETCH

INCORPORATING THE DAILY GRAPHIC

No. 5,518. Telephone: London—Museum 3341, Manchester—City 6001. LONDON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1926. [Registered as a Newspaper.] ONE PENNY.

20 Pages
DARK
BLUES
AGAIN
ROUTED
AT
TWICKENHAM

MRS. AGATHA CHRISTIE FOUND ALIVE



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

When Christie checked in at the Old Swan, it was as 'Mrs Teresa Neele'. **Neele was the surname of her husband's mistress.** Was the whole thing just an attempt to get back at her philandering spouse?



Colonel Archibald Christie, who throughout the long suspense resolutely declined to believe that his wife was dead. "I want to believe she is alive," he said.



A diver, making ready for the renewed search which was to have been made to-day for the novelist in pools on the Surrey Downs—plans which are, of course, now cancelled.



The lonely hut, near Newlands Corner, in which police, searching for Mrs. Christie, discovered a torn-up postcard and a fur coat. The hut was subsequently placed under police guard.

Missing for eleven days, Mrs. Agatha Christie, the novelist, of whom this is one of the latest photographs, was found yesterday at Harrogate. Following on police information her husband, Colonel Christie, travelled earlier in the day to the Yorkshire resort from Sunningdale, from which Mrs. Christie disappeared on the evening of Friday, December 3. To-day a search of the Surrey Downs over an area of 40 square miles was to have been made, and divers were to have descended pools and wells near Newlands Corner, where the novelist's car was found abandoned the day after she left home. Inset: Mrs. Christie with her little daughter Rosalind.

SNIFFING HER OUT

Christie's disappearance sparked a **massive manhunt**. Police in four counties, scouts, bloodhounds, aeroplanes and divers all **combed the countryside** in search of the missing author.

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **15 December 1926**, 'Agatha Christie found alive' was headline news

"ONE OF THE SADDEST THINGS IN LIFE, IS THE THINGS ONE REMEMBERS"

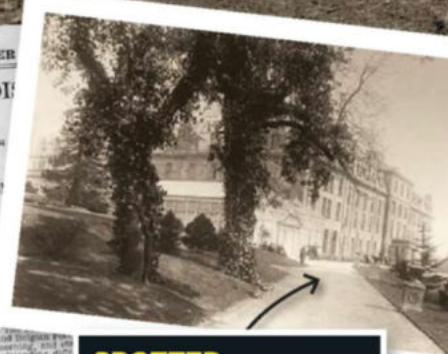
AGATHA CHRISTIE

She was the original 'Gone Girl', but was Agatha Christie's mysterious disappearance in December 1926 a publicity stunt, an act of revenge or a genuine case of memory loss? Theories abound; however, unlike one of her fictional crime capers – where clues are identified, motives deduced and the case concluded in a neat summing-up by Hercule Poirot – the real story remains unexplained.

She was last seen on Friday 3 December. Shortly after 9.30pm, she climbed into her Morris Cowley and drove off into the night. The following day, police spotted the car at Newlands Corner, Guildford, with the bonnet up and lights on. A fur coat, a suitcase and an expired driving licence were found, but there was no sign of Christie or any evidence of an accident.

Her disappearance sparked one of the largest manhunts ever mounted. Christie eventually turned up 11 days later at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate, where she was seen dancing the Charleston, playing bridge and doing the crossword. When her husband Archie arrived to collect her, she told him that she remembered nothing.

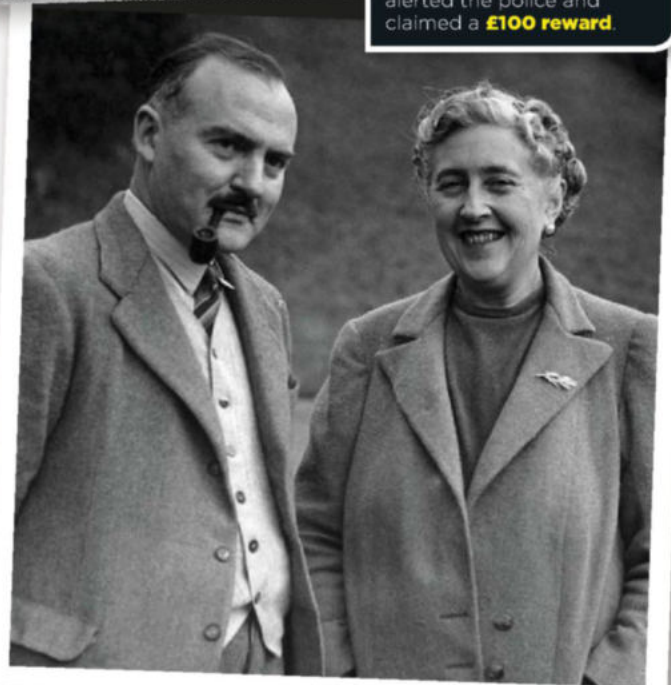
On the day that Christie disappeared, Archie had told her that he was leaving her for a 24-year-old secretary he'd been having a fling with. Did this spark Agatha's disappearing act? Did she then feign amnesia because she wanted to forget the whole sorry affair once she had the world's media on her back? Whatever the true story, Agatha Christie never spoke about those missing 11 days. She divorced Archie, married the archaeologist Max Mallowan, wrote over 80 novels, and lived to be 85. 🕒



SPOTTED

It was one of the hotel's **banjo players**, Bob Tappin, who recognised Christie, alerted the police and claimed a **£100 reward**.

IT'S A MYSTERY
ABOVE: Christie's disappearance meant the press had a field day. Had she drowned herself? Had her unfaithful husband done away with her? Or was she alive, but in disguise?
RIGHT: Christie, 20 years after the strange event, with her second husband, Max Mallowan



1926 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

5 DECEMBER Claude Monet, the French painter whose work **epitomised Impressionism**, which aimed to capture light and natural forms on canvas, dies at his home in Giverny, France, aged 86.

19 DECEMBER The stolen **Condé Diamond** is recovered in Paris. The thieves had hidden the gem inside an apple and a chambermaid found it when she took a bite out of the fruit. Four people were arrested.

25 DECEMBER Following his father's death, 25-year-old **Hirohito becomes emperor**, taking the 124th Chrysanthemum Throne. He became Japan's longest-reigning monarch, ruling until 1989.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

Over 2,000 years of staring at the stars

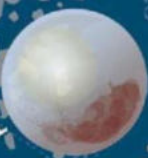
1612 GALILEO OBSERVES NEPTUNE

After inventing the world's most powerful telescope, Italian physicist Galileo Galilei revolutionised how we observe the heavens and place ourselves in the universe

KUIPER BELT

In 1992, astronomers discovered that Pluto was part of a band of small bodies beyond Neptune, home to other dwarf planets

PLUTO



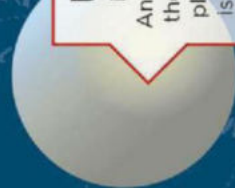
ERIS

With the discovery of this planetary body in 2005, which is 27% more massive than Pluto, the term 'planet' was formally defined – and Pluto didn't make the cut



URANUS

Named after the Ancient Greek god of the sky, it is the only planet whose name is not derived from Roman mythology



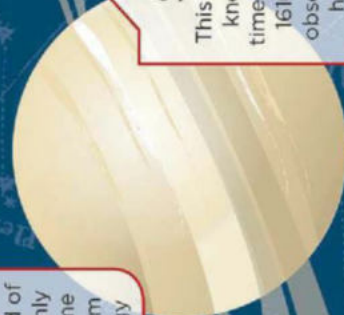
JUPITER & FOUR MOONS

The largest planet in the Solar System has been observed since at least 700 BC, when Babylonian stargazers documented it, and Galileo discovered four of its largest moons in 1610



SATURN

This gas giant has been known since ancient times, but it wasn't until 1610 that Galileo first observed its rings with his 30x telescope



ASTEROID BELT

In order to discover what lay between Mars and Jupiter, a German group called the Celestial Police was established in 1800, and they discovered a whole belt of objects that they named 'asteroids'



MARS



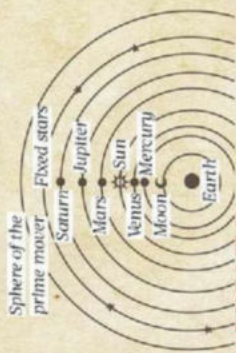
A brief history of MODELS OF THE UNIVERSE



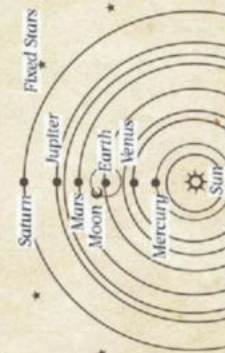
ANAXIMANDER 6TH CENTURY BC
Earth is cylindrical, and the Sun, Moon and stars are actually openings in transparent rings through which fire can be seen



PYTHAGORAS 5TH CENTURY BC
A spherical Earth, 'Counter-Earth', Moon, Sun, five planets and stars revolve around an unseen central 'hearth'



ARISTOTLE 4TH CENTURY BC
The Earth is at the centre, with the Moon, Sun, five planets and stars carried around it



COPERNICUS EARLY 16TH CENTURY
The Sun is at the centre of the universe, with the Earth and other planets rotating around it, and the Moon orbiting the Earth

HALLEY'S COMET

Visible from Earth every 75-76 years, it was spotted in the year 1066 and is depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry

1992

THE YEAR THAT SCIENTISTS FINALLY CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF AN EXOPLANET - A PLANET ORBITING A STAR OUTSIDE OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

MOON

Galileo was the first to observe that the Moon was not a perfect sphere, but has valleys, plains and mountains just like Earth

SUN

Many ancient civilisations believed that the Sun was a deity, so when Greek philosopher Anaxagoras suggested that it was a giant flaming ball of metal, he was banished for heresy

VENUS

Early astronomers identified Venus as both the 'morning star' and the 'evening star', until Pythagoras distinguished them as a single object in the 6th century BC

MYTH BUSTED

Since the Ancient Greeks, most people have accepted that the Earth is spherical - not flat as has been said about the Middle Ages

THE FALL OF GALILEO

Despite his contributions to science, the Renaissance stargazer met a sorry fate

1564

Galileo Galilei is born in Pisa to Vincenzo Galilei, a musician, and his wife Giulia

1585

He is forced to drop out of his medicine degree, supposedly due to lack of funds

1610

Galileo observes the phases of Venus and sunspots, confirming his belief that the Sun is at the centre of the universe

1633

After publishing *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, Galileo is put on trial and sentenced to house arrest

1642

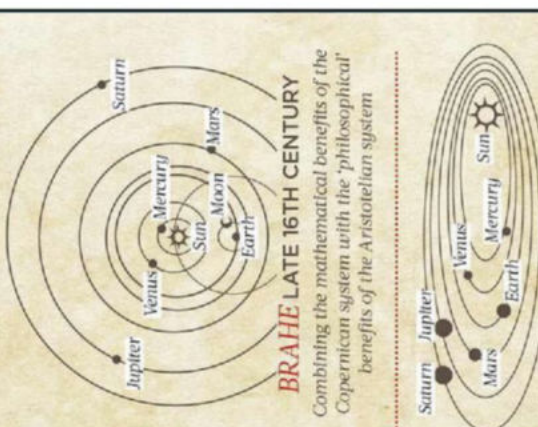
Galileo dies, after eight years of imprisonment

1616

The Catholic Church declares it illegal to defend heliocentrism

1609

Having heard about a new invention called a telescope, Galileo creates his own



BRAHE LATE 16TH CENTURY

Combining the mathematical benefits of the Copernican system with the 'philosophical' benefits of the Aristotelian system



KEPLER EARLY 17TH CENTURY

The Sun is at the centre, with the planets and stars rotating around it in elliptical orbits



HERSCHEL 18TH CENTURY

Uranus becomes the first planet to be discovered since antiquity, and Herschel also theorises that the Solar System is not at the centre of the universe but moving through it



LE VERRIER 19TH CENTURY

Though Galileo was first to observe it, it was Urbain Le Verrier who discovered that Neptune was not a fixed star but a planet



TOMBAUGH 1930

With the discovery of the mysterious 'Planet X' in 1930, the model of the Solar System that would be used for the next 76 years was finally complete. It was named Pluto

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The two-hour air assault that changed the course of World War II

1941 JAPANESE FIGHTER PLANES BOMB PEARL HARBOR

Some 4,000 miles from Tokyo, Japan's attack on US territory finally pushes Roosevelt to join forces with the Allies

It happened so very quickly. Out of nowhere at 7:55am on Sunday 7 December 1941, Japanese fighter planes filled the sky over Pearl Harbor on the Pacific island of Oahu, Hawaii, raining bombs and bullets down onto the vessels moored below.

At 8:10, a 1,800-pound bomb smashed through the deck of the battleship USS *Arizona* and landed in her forward ammunition magazine. The ship exploded and sank with more than 1,000 men trapped inside. Next, torpedoes pierced the shell of the battleship USS *Oklahoma*. With 400 sailors aboard, the *Oklahoma* lost her balance, rolled onto her side and slipped underwater.

TRAGEDY IN PARADISE

In the space of just two hours, the Japanese had destroyed or crippled nearly 20 American ships and more than 300 aeroplanes. Almost 2,500 men were killed and another 1,000 were wounded.

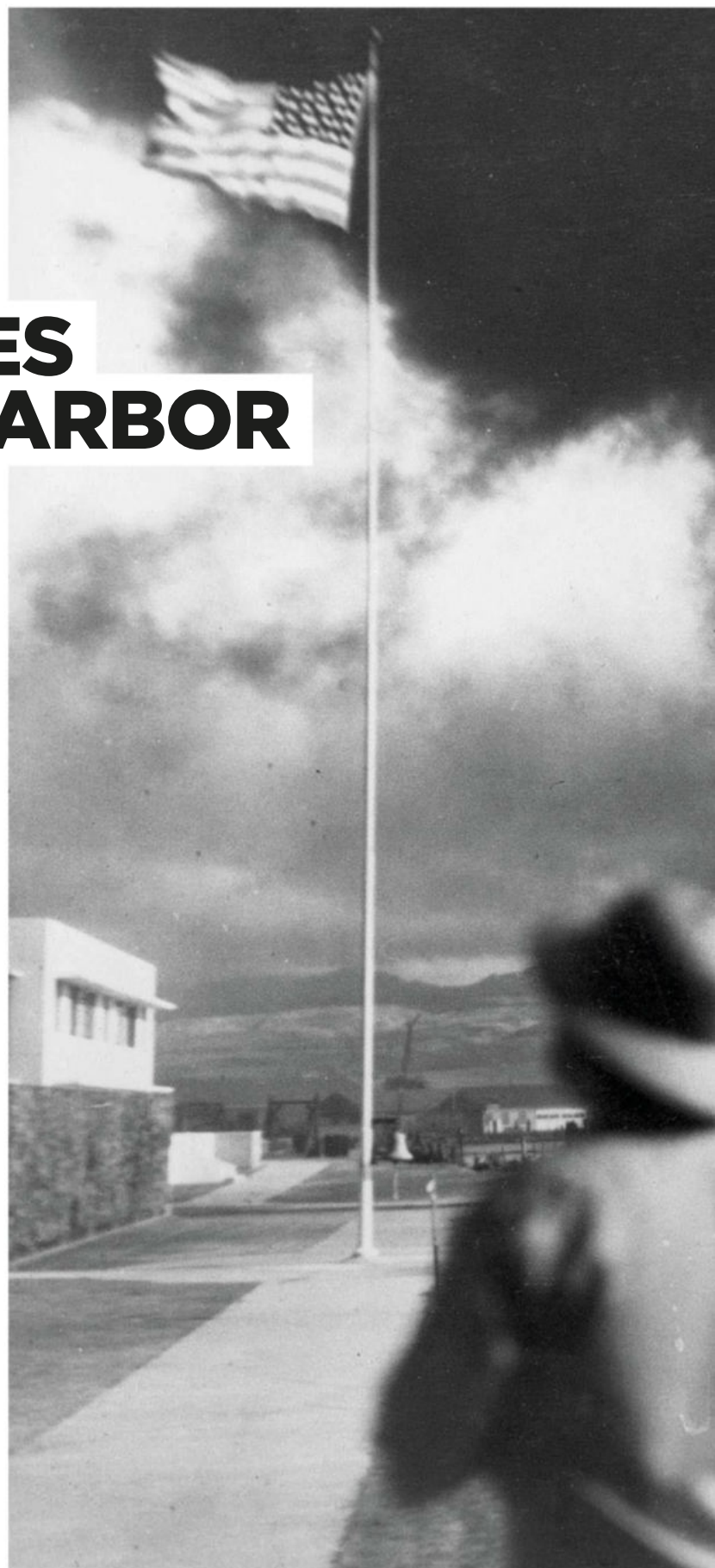
Japan and the United States had been edging towards war for decades. America had delivered a battery of economic sanctions and trade embargoes in an attempt to force Japan to rein in its aggressive expansionism into China. However, no one believed that the Japanese would start that war with an

attack on American territory, and the naval facilities at Pearl Harbor were relatively undefended. The Japanese plan was simple – destroy the Pacific Fleet. That way, the Americans would not be able to fight back as Japan's armed forces spread across the South Pacific.

STATE OF WAR

The day after the attack, a furious President Franklin D Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan to thunderous applause. Congress and millions of Americans, who had been hearing details of the attack in the news, shared the President's outrage and commitment to defending the nation. Young men flocked to armed forces recruiting stations and Congress quickly voted in favour, with only one dissenting vote. Three days later, Japan's allies – Germany and Italy – also declared war on the United States of America, and Congress once again reciprocated.

The Japanese had wanted to goad the US into an agreement to lift the economic sanctions against them – instead, they had pushed their adversary into a global conflict. After years of discussion and debate, and more than two years into the conflict, the States had finally joined World War II. 



ON THE HIT LIST

Almost all of the **Pacific Fleet's battleships** were moored around the harbour's Ford Island, and hundreds of aeroplanes were squeezed onto adjacent airfields. To the Japanese, **Pearl Harbor** was an irresistible target.



SINKING SHIP

By the time the onslaught was over, every battleship in Pearl Harbor had significant damage

OFF TARGET

By the 1940s, battleships were **no longer the most important naval vessel** - aircraft carriers were. At the time of the Japanese air assault, all of the Pacific Fleet's carriers **just happened to be away from the base.**



“With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph”

President Roosevelt asks Congress to declare war on Japan, 8 December 1941



BIG DATA

Babbage believed that his machine was confined to numerical calculations. Ada Lovelace, however, was a Victorian woman with a vision. **She predicted that computers could do more than just crunch numbers.**

THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

Byron's daughter, Babbage's protégée and Turing's inspiration. There's even a computer language named after her

1815 BIRTH OF THE FIRST PROGRAMMER

Ada Lovelace was a visionary whose brilliant mind identified the potential of computers a century before the digital age

In an age where women of a certain class were encouraged to become familiar with the arts, literature and perhaps a language or two, Ada Lovelace, who was born in London on 10 December 1815, had a remarkable start in life. Her mother, Lady Anne Isabella Milbanke, had studied science, philosophy and, most unusually for a woman, mathematics – and she wanted the same for her daughter. She was also determined that Ada would not follow in her father's footsteps – he was the notoriously debauched poet Lord Byron.

Ada Lovelace was Byron's only legitimate child. His marriage to Ada's mother was brief and unhappy. Within weeks of Ada's birth, Anne, sick of Byron's drinking, gambling and incestuous affair with his half-sister, left him. A few months later, Byron quit England, and Ada never saw her father again. He died in Greece in 1824 when Ada was eight years old.

From an early age, Ada loved machines and spent hours poring over diagrams of new inventions and dreaming up her own. Ada's preoccupation was encouraged by Lady Byron who, as an aristocrat,

had the means to arrange a series of teachers to provide a first-class education with an emphasis on science and mathematics.

PURE LOGIC

Lady Byron's motivation wasn't entirely focused on expanding Ada's mind – she feared that Ada may have inherited her father's poetic madness and rationalised that, by bringing his daughter up in a world of pure logic and reason, it would instill some mental discipline. Although she didn't stop Ada reading her father's poetry, Lady Byron was relieved that her daughter had no real interest in it.

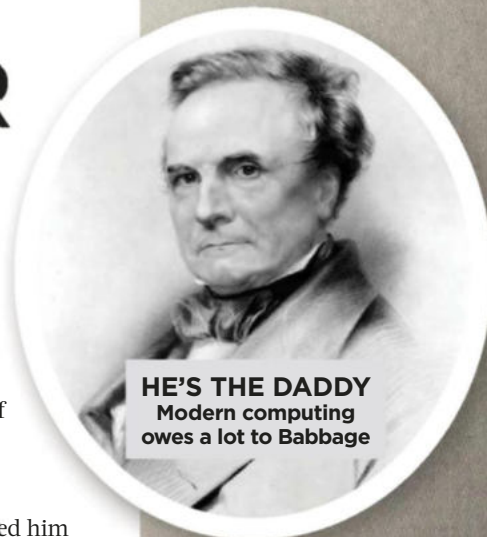
One of Ada's illustrious tutors was Mary Somerville, the Scottish astronomer and mathematician who was one of the first women to be admitted to the Royal Astronomical Society. It was Somerville who introduced Ada to Charles Babbage, professor of mathematics at Cambridge. Ada was 17 and Babbage was 42. It was a friendship that would change Ada's life. Babbage had earlier invented the 'Difference Engine' – an enormous calculating machine designed

to automatically produce error-free mathematical tables, which later led him to be dubbed the 'father of the computer'.

CAPTIVATED

When Lady Byron invited him over to show a model of his creation to her friends, Ada was captivated and he was bowled over by her precocious intellect. In her, he'd found a passionate supporter and confidante – in him, she'd found a mentor.

As he went on to develop his next project, a theoretical computer he called the 'Analytical Engine', they corresponded regularly. As well as a shared passion for numbers, their

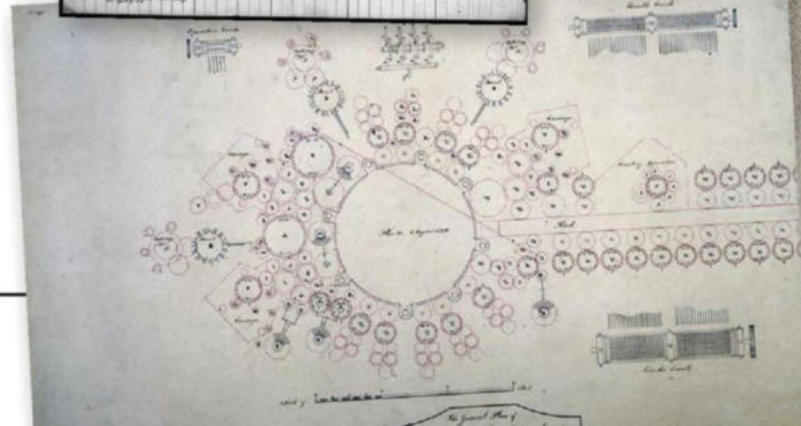
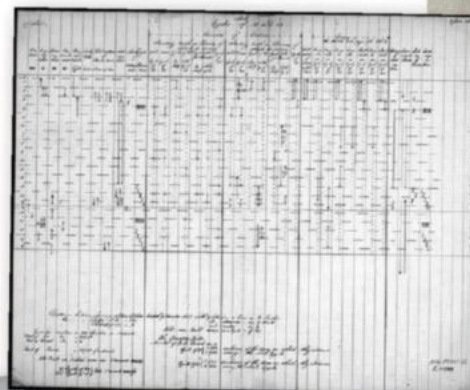


HE'S THE DADDY
Modern computing owes a lot to Babbage

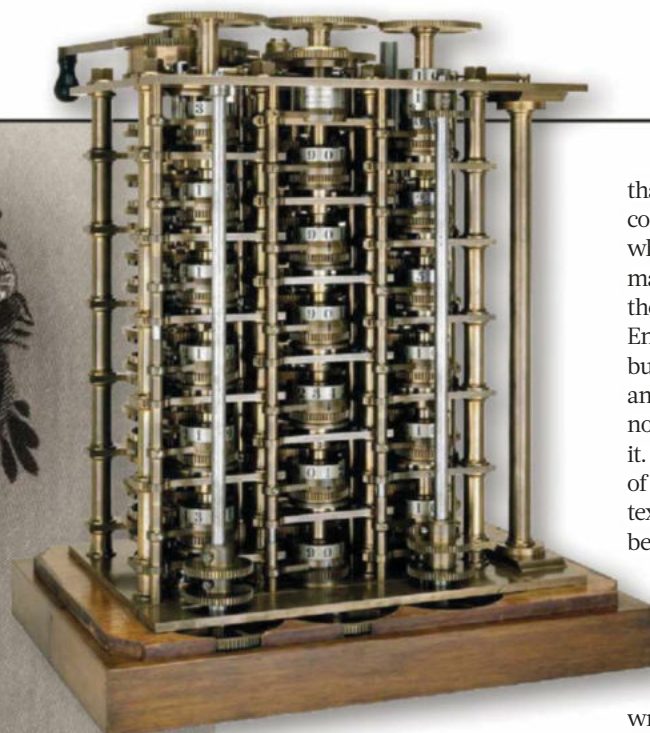


ONE STEP BEYOND

Ada's notes on Babbage's designs proved that not only did she understand the plans, she also realised its full potential



"Lovelace mused that any piece of content, from text to sounds, could be translated to digital form"



TESTING THE THEORY

When Babbage's 'Difference Engine' was built by the Science Museum in 2002, it worked

affectionate, lifelong relationship was also due to the fact that Babbage had previously lost a much beloved daughter, while Ada had longed for a father figure since childhood.

LOST IN TRANSLATION

After becoming Babbage's protégée, Ada (now the Countess of Lovelace) was tasked with translating an article about the Analytical Engine, written by Italian engineer Luigi Menabrea. She used this as an opportunity to do much more than just translate. She added insightful notes, such as outlining how to use the Engine to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers (named after Swiss maths whizz Jakob Bernoulli, 1655-1705, who had worked out that a sequence of rational numbers could create a formula to solve problems). This is considered to be the first machine-generated algorithm, and therefore, the first computer program.

The finished piece, *Notes by the Translator... Sketch of the Analytical Engine* was three times as long as the original paper. It was published in 1843, and demonstrated that while Lovelace understood the plans for the device as well as Babbage, she realised its potential much better than he did. Babbage believed

that the use of his machine was confined to numerical calculations, while Ada realised that it could also manipulate symbols. This would theoretically enable the Analytical Engine (a full version was never built) to take on complex tasks and produce an answer that had not been pre-programmed into it. She also mused that any piece of content – including music, text, pictures and sounds – could be translated to digital form and manipulated. It was as if her analytical mind was given wings by a creative instinct – she was indeed her father's daughter. She wrote: "The Analytical Engine weaves algebraical patterns just as the Jacquard loom weaves flowers and leaves."

This was heady stuff. Her ideas were so far ahead of their time that it would take another 100 years and Alan Turing to recognise the significance of her work. During World War II, as he was working at Bletchley Park on decoding German communications, Turing discovered Ada's translation. For him, these were critical documents that helped to shape his thinking and crack the Enigma Code.

As the field of computer science dawned in the 1950s, Lovelace gained a new following after her notes were republished in BV Bowden's 1953 book *Faster Than Thought: A Symposium on Digital Computing Machines*. In 1979, a computer programming language, developed by the US Department of Defense, was named 'Ada' in her honour.

Lovelace had a short life. She suffered from uterine cancer and passed away on 27 November 1852. At her request, she was buried in the Byron family vault inside the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Hucknall. Her coffin was placed side-by-side with that of the father she never knew. She was just 36 – the same age as Lord Byron when he died. ☹

SIMPLY SPELLBOUND

Babbage was so impressed by Ada's brilliant mathematical mind that he called her the 'Enchantress of Numbers'

I'D PUT MONEY ON IT

In the 1840s, Lovelace turned her talents toward gambling, perhaps hoping that the winnings would fund Babbage's inventions. **This gamble didn't pay off**, and Ada was once forced to secretly pawn the Lovelace family's diamonds.



Just how important was Ada to the field of computing?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com

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FOLK HERO

We've been telling his story for centuries, but who was the *real* outlaw who dared defy King John?





ROBIN HOOD

The truth behind England's
greatest legend





Daring escapes, diabolical villains, valiant freedom fighters, love across a class divide – the Robin Hood story has got the lot. But the question that's been puzzling historians for centuries is – are these escapades the product of a medieval fiction-writer's fertile imagination, or could they in some way be grounded in historical reality? In other words, did a real-life Robin Hood ever exist?

Every generation has its favourite Robin Hood. To those of a certain age he is Kevin Costner, releasing a flaming arrow with unerring precision to the strains of Bryan Adams' mega-hit '(Everything I Do) I Do It For You'.

For readers of an older vintage, Robin will always be synonymous with Errol Flynn, the swashbuckling, green-eyed Saxon knight, who in the 1938 production, foiled King John's dastardly plans in glorious Technicolor.

For those with less conventional tastes, however, the archetypal Robin Hood may not be a man at all. Instead, he's a frog named Kermit, racing to Maid Marian's rescue in the Muppet Show's unforgettable rendition of the famous outlaw tale in 1979.

Three very different productions these may be, but each is testament to the spectacular success of what is surely the world's ultimate outlaw story. Robin's trusty arrows have been pricking the public imagination ever since his tale was first told sometime, somewhere, in the depths of the Middle Ages. And, centuries later, his magnetism is showing no signs of waning.

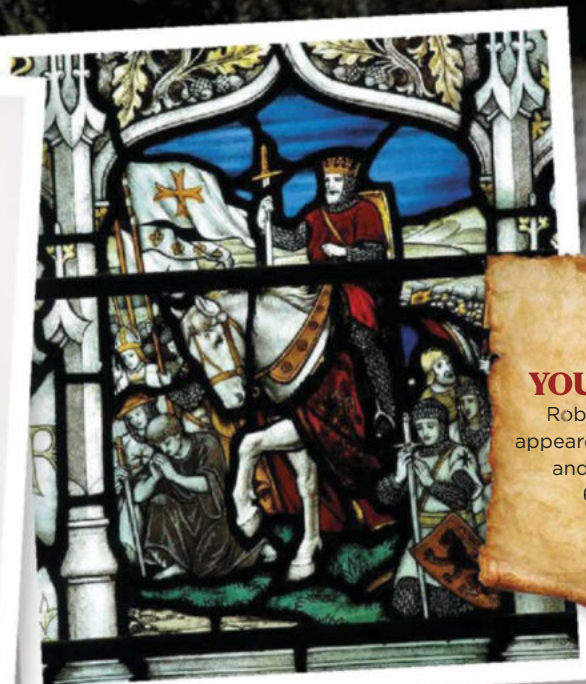
THE STORY

There are almost as many versions of the Robin Hood story as there are trees in Sherwood Forest. But most modern adaptations of the tale begin with England's brave and noble king, Richard the Lionheart, heading off to the Holy Land on crusade. With Richard occupied overseas, his evil, grasping brother, John, usurps the English throne and embarks on a reign of terror. Ably assisted by the equally diabolical Sheriff of Nottingham, John taxes his people until the pips squeak and imprisons (or worse) those who are unable or unwilling to pay up.



FOREST CAMO

It is indeed likely that Robin Hood **wore green**, possibly a woollen tunic, leather boots, and **light armour like a gambeson**. And, perhaps, a hood.



DID YOU KNOW?

Robin Hood has appeared on the small and big screen 68 times

HOOD LIFE

ABOVE LEFT: **A Mery Geste of Robyn Hode** is one of his oldest surviving tales, printed 1492-1534
ABOVE: **Richard I**, one of the tale's protagonists

Into this maelstrom steps the brilliant outlaw-archer Robin Hood. He decides to take a stand against John and his evil sheriff. Operating from a base deep in Sherwood Forest, Robin masterminds a guerilla campaign against the Sheriff's

men, eluding their attempts to capture him and, of course, robbing from the rich to give to the poor. In this, he is assisted by his 'Merry Men', a band of outlaws that includes the massive Little John – who befriends Robin after defeating him in a fight with quarterstaves – and Friar Tuck, a portly, jovial man of the Church with a soft spot for good food and wine. Yet the Merry



FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT
RIGHT: Little John and Robin Hood
fight using their legendary
quarterstaves MAIN: A bronze
statue of Robin Hood now stands
beneath Nottingham Castle

LITTLE JOHN

The story goes that Robin Hood met Little John when **the giant tried to prevent him crossing a bridge**. Robin was defeated, but John agreed to join his band.



WHO WAS WHO?

Heroes and villains

MAID MARIAN

Robin's love interest is invariably beautiful, well bred and courageous. And, of course, she always gets her man.

LITTLE JOHN

Little John is usually cast as Robin's second-in-command, a seven-foot, quarterstaff-wielding giant of a man.

FRIAR TUCK

The Friar is the portly, jovial chaplain of the Merry Men who loves food and ale almost as ardently as he worships God.

WILL SCARLET

Is Will Scarlet Robin's brother, his cousin or his nephew? Is he a scarlet-clad dandy, or grubby and violent? It all depends on which version of the Robin Hood tale you read.

THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

The classic villain of the Robin Hood stories is hellbent on keeping the trade routes through Sherwood Forest open, and sometimes has lecherous designs on Maid Marian.

GUY OF GISBOURNE

Guy is the Sheriff's partner in crime, who in one early version of the story is hired to kill Robin. He fails and gets his head chopped off for his troubles.

ALAN-A-DALE

Alan is a wandering minstrel who joins the Merry Men after Robin gallantly rescues his sweetheart from an unwanted marriage to an old knight.

KING JOHN

The infamous medieval king's plans to usurp his brother's throne and subject England to a reign of terror are thwarted - with the help, of course, of the Merry Men.

"Robin's trusty arrows have been pricking the public imagination for centuries"

Men don't have things all their own way. The Sheriff comes up with a plot to capture Robin by announcing an archery tournament at Nottingham Castle. Robin quits the safety of the forest to take part in the tournament and wins, but is taken prisoner by the Sheriff's men and sentenced to hang.

Death appears certain until the noblewoman Maid Marian helps the Merry Men rescue Robin and spirit him back to the forest. Soon Robin is back at Nottingham Castle to rescue Marian from the evil Sheriff's clutches and pay

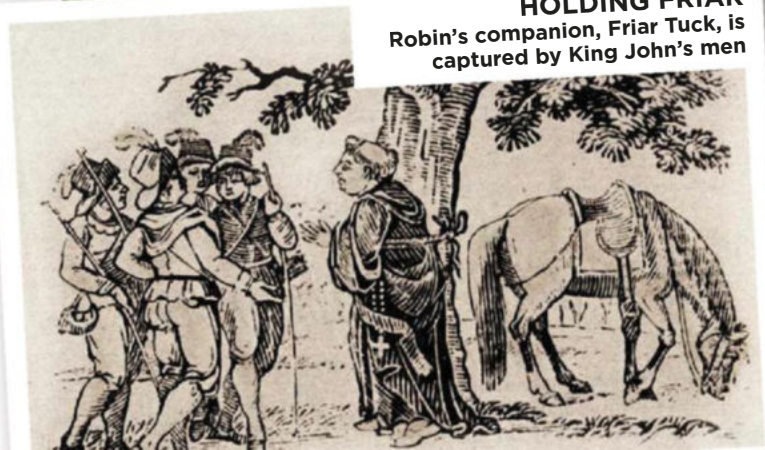
his respects to King Richard, who has just returned to reclaim the throne from his brother. England is safe, and Robin and Marian live happily ever after.

MAN OR MYTH?

But did any of this actually happen? To answer this question, we have to leave the 21st century far behind, and return to an age when the name 'Robin Hood' first left its imprint on the written record. We know that Robin was



HOLDING FRIAR
Robin's companion, Friar Tuck, is
captured by King John's men





◀ already a literary figure by around 1377 because he shows up – albeit fleetingly – in *Piers Plowman*, a poem by William Langland. In it, Sloth, the drunken priest, declares that he might not know the Lord's Prayer but that he can recite the “rymes of Robyn Hood”.

We have to fast-forward to about 1450 to find the first substantial reference to Robin in a written text. That arrives in the form of the ballad *Robin Hood and the Monk*, which tells us how Robin goes to Mass at St Mary's Church in Nottingham, only to be recognised by a monk who he has previously robbed on the highway. Robin is arrested, and the not-so-heroic hero is only saved when Little John breaks him out of jail.

These tales reveal that Robin Hood was very much part of the national consciousness by the 15th century, but they do little to tell us whether or not he actually lived. For that, we need to look elsewhere, and we'll begin with the era's historical record.

MEDIEVAL MYSTERY

Who was Robin Hood?

ROBERT, EARL OF HUNTINGTON

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Robin Hood got an upgrade. No longer was he a mere yeoman, but a noble aristocrat. According to the playwright Anthony Munday, that aristocrat was Robert, Earl of Huntington, who lived during the reign of Richard I. Unfortunately, most historians believe this theory to be a fabrication.

ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY

The Sloane Manuscripts, housed in the British Museum, contain a passage claiming that the famous outlaw was born in Locksley (probably Yorkshire) in 1160. We have no evidence for this, but the idea that Robin Hood was a Robin of Locksley has proved persuasive to writers and film-makers ever since.

WILLIAM LE FEVRE

Historians attempting to track down a real Robin Hood have long been intrigued by references to one “William Robehod, fugitive” in a Berkshire court document from 1261. Robehod's real name was William le Fevre, and it appears he acquired the nickname because he was part of a criminal gang.

It's now that things get interesting for, in the 13th century alone, there's no shortage of leads to men who could potentially have been Robin. Perhaps the most intriguing of these appears in the King's Remembrancer's Memoranda Roll of Easter 1262, which reports the pardoning of the Prior of Sandleford for seizing without warrant the personal possessions of a fugitive who the court called ‘William Robehod’.

This wasn't the first time that the name Robin Hood – or at least something remarkably similar to it – had been read out in an English court. Almost four decades earlier, in 1226, the royal justices held an assize in York in which they slapped a penalty of 32 shillings and sixpence on a ‘Robert Hod’, who they describe as a fugitive.

Could one of these two outlaws have been the real Robin? Was the Scottish historian John Major, writing in 1521, onto something when he claimed that Robin was active in 1193–94 at the time of John's attempted coup against Richard? Did the Sloane Manuscripts, gathered by the 18th-century physician Hans Sloane, have it right when they claimed that the famous outlaw was

CAMEO APPEARANCE Robin Hood is mentioned in the 14th-century poem *Piers Plowman*



born in Locksley (probably Yorkshire) in 1160? It's possible. But the cruel truth may be that these men weren't referred to as ‘Robehod’ or ‘Robert Hod’ because they *were* Robin Hood, but because – so embedded was the legend in the national psyche – that's just what fugitives were commonly called at the time. The appearance of ‘Robehod’ and ‘Robert Hod’ in the records is undoubtedly intriguing, but it proves nothing.

In fact, it has been argued that ‘Robin Hood’ is merely a contraction of ‘Robin o' the Wood’, a purely legendary figure whose nickname was first widely used in the 12th century.

BAD KING JOHN

But that doesn't mean that the Robin Hood story is utterly divorced from historical reality. On the contrary, it gives us an invaluable perspective on what life was like in the Middle Ages – and, more specifically, what it was like to live during the reign of the tale's infamous

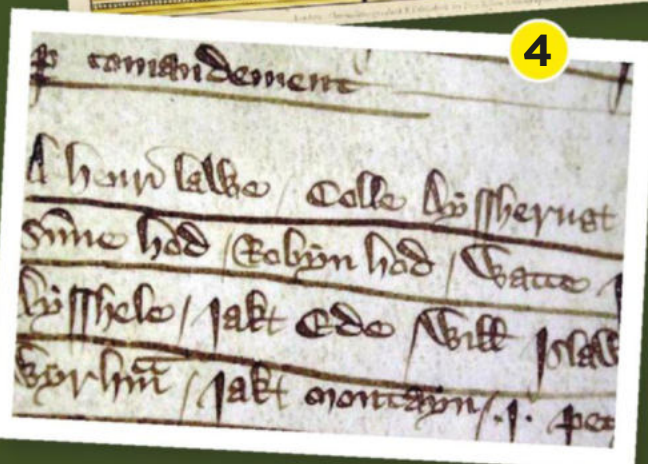
“This wasn't the first time that the name Robin Hood had been read in court”



STEALING FROM THE RICH Hood robs a proud bishop of his gold

LEGEND FOR ALL TIME

Over the centuries, Robin's likeness has appeared on everything from artworks to adverts, as his enduring legend has evolved to mean something fresh. This selection of Hood-related memorabilia illustrates that change...



ROBIN IN PRINT

- 1: Four scenes showing Robin Hood with Little John, Clorinda - his betrothed, young Edwin the Hermit and the Friar, from an 1809 print
- 2: Lithographic plate, featuring a stained glass window depicting the history of Robin Hood from *Masterpieces of Industrial Art*, 1873
- 3: *The History of Robin Hood*, a ballad from c1700
- 4: A wage account from 1324, outlining payment to one 'Robyn Hod', porter of King Edward II's chamber
- 5: A British Railways poster for Nottinghamshire, 1948-51

SEEN ON SCREEN

Legendary Robins

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (1938)

► 14 May 1938 is arguably the most important day in the history of the Robin Hood legend, for it was then that Errol Flynn exploded into cinemas in *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. Flynn's swashbuckling Robin perhaps did more than any other to popularise the tale in the United States.



DISNEY'S ROBIN HOOD (1973)

► The '70s found Robin Hood storming the box office again, this time as an anthropomorphic cartoon animal. This Robin Hood (a fox voiced by Brian Bedford) may have lacked Flynn's sex appeal, but that didn't stop this version becoming the most successful Disney animated feature on its first release.



ROBIN AND MARIAN (1976)

► As his association with James Bond petered out, Sean Connery played another all-action British hero, opposite the legendary Audrey Hepburn. Richard Harris (as King Richard I) added another layer of stardust to a film that scored highly among the critics.



ROBIN HOOD: PRINCE OF THIEVES (1991)

► Kevin Costner and Morgan Freeman proved that Robin was alive and well in the 1990s. Costner's depiction of Hood earned him a Golden Raspberry Award for 'Worst Actor' – but that didn't stop *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* becoming the second-highest-grossing film of 1991.



ROBIN HOOD: MEN IN TIGHTS (1993)

▼ This Mel Brooks-directed spoof sees Robin – played by Cary Elwes – overcoming the Sheriff of Nottingham with a little help from a 'PATRIOT' arrow. Intriguingly, Richard I (played by Patrick Stewart) insists that all toilets in the kingdom be renamed 'Johns'.



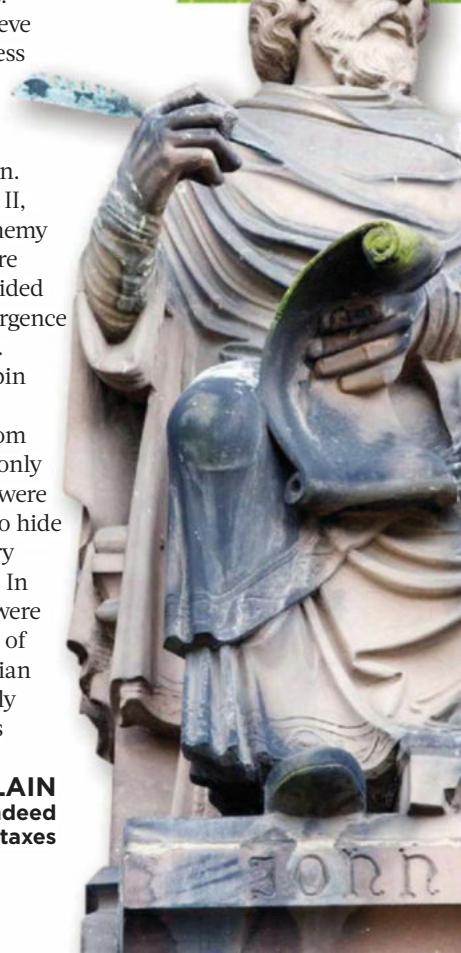
HIS OWN BACKYARD
Fighting in forests was not only practical but also symbolic, as they were the King's property

◀ villain, King John. In an age when rulers were hardly averse to acts of cruelty, John (who reigned from 1199 to 1216) took despotism to new lows. He imposed ruinous taxes on his subjects, waged unwinnable wars, and threw his enemies into prison on trumped-up charges (in one infamous act of savagery, he ordered two aristocrats – Maud de Braose and her son William – to be starved to death in a castle dungeon).

John was a vindictive, incompetent, unpopular leader. "Hell itself is made fouler by the presence of King John," was the chronicler Matthew Paris's verdict on him in the 1230s. Yet John did, it seems, achieve something during his hapless reign – and that was to turn the once-reviled figure of the outlaw into a champion of the little man. Under John's father, Henry II, outlaws had been public enemy number one. Now, they were heroes. This backdrop provided fertile territory for the emergence of a figure like Robin Hood.

And where better for Robin to wage his war against an unscrupulous king than from the depths of a forest? Not only was this practical – forests were huge, often wild and easy to hide in – but, to our 13th-century ancestors, highly symbolic. In medieval England, forests were largely the private preserve of the King, subject to draconian laws and, as such, incredibly unpopular. So not only was

TRUE VILLAIN
King John did indeed impose harsh taxes



**MANY RINGS**

The **Major Oak**, the Sherwood Forest tree in which Robin Hood's **Merry Men** are said to have hidden, is predicted to be 800-1,000 years old.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Major Oak was voted the Woodland Trust's 'Tree of the Year' in 2014

“Under John’s father, outlaws had been public enemy number one. Now, they were heroes”

hiding in Sherwood a great way for Robin Hood to evade his would-be captors, to early readers of the tale it would have been interpreted as a public act of defiance against the King.

QUESTION OF COUNTY

Whether Robin was a historical character or not, he certainly wasn't the only outlaw operating during King John's reign, and nor was he the most high-profile (not in the 13th century, at least). That accolade has to go to a powerful marcher lord called Fulk FitzWarin. Fulk and John were childhood friends, until the pair had a fight over a game of chess. The future king never forgot the incident and, when the two had grown up, took

Fulk's ancestral lands from him and gave them to a rival, Morys FitzRoger. Fulk promptly murdered FitzRoger and fled into outlawry – an act of defiance that earned him admiration across the land. Could his historical exploits be the template on which the Robin Hood story was based?

Maybe. Maybe not. But even if that was the case, most of the early balladeers don't portray Robin Hood as the kind of person who would have circulated in royal circles as a boy. While Fulk was an aristocrat, the original Robin Hood was probably a member of the yeomanry, an emerging class that sat somewhere between the peasantry – those at the bottom of society's pile, who were

bound to a lord and had to pay a fixed rent for their land – and the nobility. Before turning to outlawry, the early balladeers' Robin Hood may have owned his own land, he may even have been a merchant, but he wouldn't have broken bread with royalty.

Nor would he, necessarily, have been a man of Nottinghamshire. For centuries, two rival counties – Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire – have claimed Robin as their own. The prominence of the evil sheriff in modern versions of the story suggests that the former has come out on top. But not everything about this take on events stacks up. For example, the tradition that Robin Hood and his Merry Men hid out in the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest is compromised by the revelation that the tree would have been a mere sapling during the reign of Bad King John.

Yorkshire's claim cannot, then, be discarded. Numerous ballads from the Middle Ages – *A Gest of Robyn Hode* and *Robin Hood and the Monk* among

◀ them – claim that he was born in South Yorkshire, and that he operated out of Barnsdale Forest in that same county. And one of the most enduring traditions associated with the Robin Hood story suggests that he died there too. Robin, it's claimed, was buried in the grounds of Kirklees Priory in West Yorkshire after being bled to death by a vindictive abbess. Realising that his demise was imminent, Robin fired his final arrow from the gatehouse window, entreating Little John to bury him exactly where the arrow fell.

A drawing made by the antiquarian Nathaniel Johnston in 1665 shows a slab decorated with a cross, and the inscription "Here lie Roberd Hude, Willm Goldburgh, Thoms..." carved around the edge – at the spot where the outlaw is said to be buried. Yet Sir Samuel Armitage, investigating the site in the 18th century, found no evidence for a grave. He therefore concluded that the memorial must have been "brought

from some other place, and by vulgar tradition ascribed to Robin Hood".

So neither Nottinghamshire nor Yorkshire have staked an undeniable claim to being home to the Robin Hood legend. All we can say with at least a degree of confidence is that he was a man of the north.

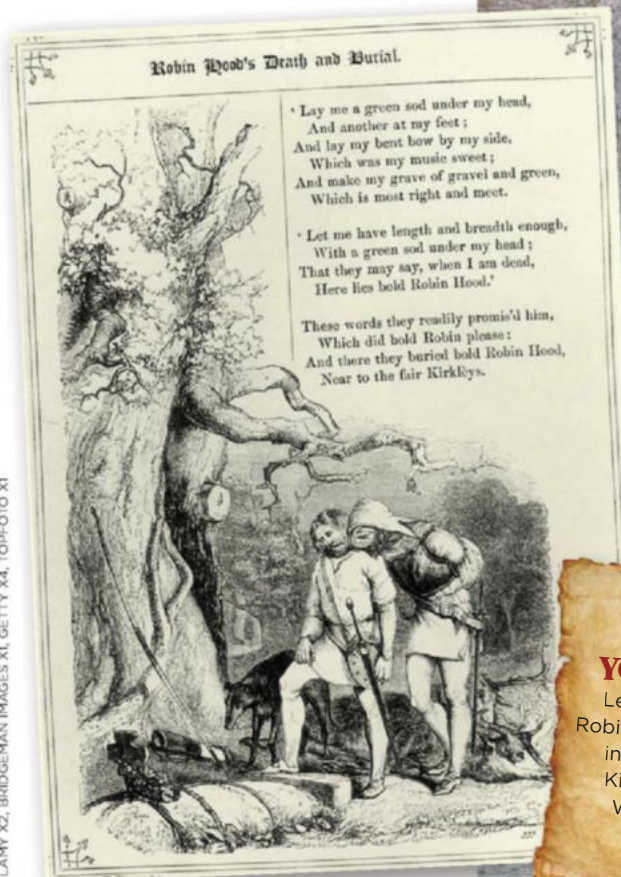
Whichever county gave us Robin Hood, there's little doubt that, by the late Middle Ages, men and women across England had adopted him as their own. Visit any May Day celebration across the land from at least the 15th century and there's a good chance you'd have been greeted by the sight of revellers dressed

"The elusive outlaw from the mists of medieval England has become a truly global phenomenon"

ENDURING TALE

BELOW: 'Robin Hood's Death and Burial' from *The Book of British Ballads*, 1842

RIGHT: Maid Marian was initially a shepherdess, but later retellings place her as an orphaned noblewoman under the protection of King Richard



DID YOU KNOW?
Legend has it that Robin Hood's grave lies in the grounds of Kirklees Priory in West Yorkshire

in Lincoln green participating in the hugely popular 'Robin Hood games'.

And this evidently wasn't solely the preserve of the great unwashed. The chronicler Edward Hall tells us that in 1510, to mark the year's May Day celebrations, the young Henry VIII entered Queen Catherine of Aragon's chamber with 11 of his nobles, "every one of them with his bowe and arrowes, and a sworde and a bucklar, like outlawes, or Robyn Hodes men".

Even the great playwright William Shakespeare fell under Robin's spell, writing him into two of his plays – *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *As You Like It* (in the latter we're told that a duke-turned-exile is living "like the old Robin Hood of England").

LOOKING FORWARD

Around the start of the 16th century, John Major wrote: "I conceive, there flourished those most famous robbers, Robin Hood and Little John, who lay in wait in the woods but spoiled of their goods those only who were wealthy. They took the life of no man unless he either attacked them or offered resistance in defence of their property." Here, in two short sentences, Major got to the nub of why Robin Hood remained so enduringly popular among his countrymen – from Shakespeare to inebriated May Day revellers. To them, he was the heroic everyman cocking

a snook at authority; the comforting proof that absolute, unbridled power doesn't always win the day.

Half a millennium after Major breathed his last – and having conquered America in the 19th century, courtesy of Howard Pyle's wildly successful children's book, *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* – the elusive outlaw from the mists of medieval England has become a truly global phenomenon. It seems that the idea of a triumphant underdog still has cache, even in the digital age.

Today, Hood inspires Hollywood blockbusters (Russell Crowe is the latest A-lister to play him, in a Ridley Scott-directed 2010 production), provides the hero for popular video games, and has even given his name to a tax system that aims to redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor.

We may never know whether he was himself rich or poor, where he lived and died – in fact, whether he lived at all. But there's no doubting one thing, and that's that Robin Hood is the irresistible centrepiece of one of the most enduring and enchanting legends of them all. ○



MODERN ICON
The **Robin Hood tax** is a proposed tax on transactions like stocks, bonds and foreign currencies that will generate cash to **fight poverty and climate change**.

GET HOOKED

READ

A Brief History of Robin Hood (Running Press 2010) by Nigel Cawthorne explores the truth behind the myths.

Robin Hood (Thames & Hudson, 2011) assesses the evidence for his existence, after 30 years of research by JC Holt.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Robin Hood a real man, or simply a figment of medieval imagination – or a bit of both?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com

OF MONSTERS AND MEN

Britain's greatest folk tales



BRUTUS OF TROY

▲ For a list of great British legends, it's probably best to start with the man who (so they say) founded Britain. That man was Brutus – a Roman consul and descendant of the great Trojan hero Aeneas – who, we're told, brought an army ashore, fought off the natives and became the first king of Britain.



KING ARTHUR

▲ Full of tales of wizards, the underworld and diabolical beasts, it's hardly surprising that the story of King Arthur is often condemned as pure make-believe. Yet there may be a kernel of truth behind the fantasy. Could the figure of Arthur be based upon a historical British warlord, leading the fight against marauding Anglo-Saxons?



LOCH NESS MONSTER

▲ The legend of Nessie first emerged from the murky waters of Loch Ness in AD 565, when St Columba described a beast in the water. Yet it really took flight in the mid-20th century when a series of 'sightings' led to full-scale scientific investigations. To date, no monster has ever been found.



DICK WHITTINGTON

▲ Dick Whittington, the legend, rose from the depths of poverty to the heights of polite society in medieval London, thanks to the ratting ability of his cat. Yet the myth was based on a real man, Richard Whittington, who was lord mayor of London no less than four times.



ROBERT BRUCE AND THE SPIDER

▲ Robert Bruce was at his lowest ebb. On the run from the English, he took refuge in a cave where he was inspired to lead a famous fightback after watching a spider try, and try again, to spin a web. The spider might be the stuff of legend, but it is synonymous with one of the greatest heroes in Scottish history.

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Images: BMW Art Car 12, 1991 by Esther Mahlangu (b. 1935) in the Great Court at the British Museum. © Esther Mahlangu. Photo © Trustees of the British Museum



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REDUCED TO RUBBLE

Villers-Bocage survived the battle relatively unscathed but was **devastated in the air raids** that followed.



Armoured onslaught

Michael Wittmann's attack on the British at Villers-Bocage is one of the most famous incidents in the history of armoured warfare. **Julian Humphrys** looks at what really happened

Michael Wittmann hadn't been expecting to fight a battle. His regiment had just arrived in Normandy, only half of the 12 Tiger tanks in the company he commanded were ready for action, and he was planning to spend the day carrying out repairs to his vehicles. All of that changed when one of his men rushed to his command post and reported that a long line of vehicles was driving along the road in front of them. Realising that the mystery vehicles were British, Wittmann ordered his men to start up their tanks and prepare for action.

It had been a week since the Allied landings in Normandy,



IT'S A KNOCK-OUT
Three destroyed German tanks
- victims of the British ambush in
the centre of Villers-Bocage

BATTLE CONTEXT

When

13 June 1944

Where

Villers Bocage, Normandy

Why

British attempt to break through to Caen

Who

British: 22nd Armoured Brigade

Germans: 101st SS Heavy Tank Battalion plus part of the Panzer Lehr Division

Outcome

British advance stopped but Germans suffer irreplaceable losses in tanks

FEARSOME BEAST

Popularly known as the Tiger, the **powerfully armed and heavily armoured Panzer MkVI** struck fear in the hearts of Allied tank crews.

BATTLE IN THE BOCAGE

Normandy is famous for its bocage country. With its high banks, thick hedgerows and sturdy villages, it was the ideal place to defend. Advancing troops would always be wondering whether an ambush squad lay in wait for them in the bushes, an enemy tank was lurking around the corner of a sunken lane, or a church tower hid a deadly sniper. In fighting reminiscent of World War I, the British paid a heavy price in men and machines for every mile they gained, and the Germans found counter-attacking equally difficult. The bocage did offer the Allies one compensation - it gave their tanks a degree of protection from the full effects of the powerful German guns, which greatly outranged their own. But not all of the Norman countryside was enclosed like this. Much of the terrain around Caen consisted of large open fields, and in mid-July, the British lost over 300 tanks there in just three days.

but the city of Caen, a key D-Day objective, remained in German hands. However, on 12 June 1944, the British took advantage of a gap in the German lines around Caumont and sent the 7th Armoured Division in a great right hook towards the important city. Brigadier Hinde's 22nd Armoured Brigade led the way, and the following morning tanks of the 4th County of London Yeomanry (the 'Sharpshooters') and infantry from the Rifle Brigade reached Villers-Bocage, to the rear of the Germans.

As tanks and infantry passed through the town and occupied an area of high ground known as 'Point 213', they were joined by Viscount Cranley, the Sharpshooters' commanding officer. Blissfully unaware that the

whole advance had been spotted, some of the Rifle Brigade's half-tracks pulled over onto the verge to allow more tanks to pass. Suddenly, there was a loud bang, one of Cranley's tanks exploded, and an enormous tank appeared on the road. It was Wittmann.

He fired again and a second tank burst into flames, blocking the road and cutting off the British at Point 213 from the town. Leaving his other tanks to continue the fighting there, Wittmann drove towards Villers-Bocage, shooting up the Rifle Brigade's half-tracks as he went. Three Stuart light tanks from the Sharpshooters' reconnaissance troop were next in line for the Wittmann treatment. Their thin armour and puny guns were



ON THE LOOKOUT

British troops with rifles and a Bren gun peer cautiously through a Normandy hedge



BATTLEFIELD VILLERS-BOCAGE, 13 JUNE 1944

no match for the Tiger, but even so, Rex Ingram, the commander of one of these tanks, bravely tried to block the road. Wittmann fired, Ingram's tank exploded and the other two Stuarts suffered a similar fate.

Bulldozing Ingram's blazing wreck out the way, Wittmann motored on into the town, where he came across four Cromwell tanks. Faced with the advancing monster, the British desperately tried to back down side-streets or behind the cover of buildings and walls, but they were hampered by the fact that their Cromwells could only manage a sedate 2mph in reverse. Although Captain Dyas managed to hide his tank in a garden, the other three were quickly knocked out. One scored two hits on the Tiger but failed to penetrate its armour.

NOT GIVING UP

As Wittmann's Tiger rumbled on, it passed the garden where Dyas was lurking in his Cromwell, but by now there was so much smoke that he never spotted it. A well-aimed shot into its tracks could have at least brought the Tiger to a halt, but Dyas was unable to fire – his gunner had left the tank for a toilet



IN TRANSIT
Michael Wittmann stands in the tank in the foreground

break. But he didn't give up. After reorganising his crew, Dyas drove from his hiding place and began to stalk the Tiger, hoping for the chance to put a shot through its weaker rear armour. Unaware that he was being followed, Wittmann carried on, shooting up more tanks and vehicles until he reached the town centre. It was then that he came across a more dangerous opponent – a Sherman Firefly tank.

Equipped with a powerful 17-pounder gun, the Firefly was the one British tank able to take on the Tiger on equal terms. The two tanks exchanged shots, but the air was so thick with smoke and dust that accurate aiming was

almost impossible. Although the Tiger suffered a glancing blow, neither tank was damaged and the chief victim of the shoot-out was a nearby building, which was brought crashing down on top of a German sniper who was hiding inside it.

Wittmann decided it was time to withdraw. Turning his tank around, he began to drive back out of the town, and came face-to-face with Dyas's Cromwell. Captain Dyas managed to fire two shots, but to his dismay both bounced harmlessly off the Tiger's thick armour. Then the Tiger's gun roared and Dyas's tank burst into flames. Dyas and a

BATTLE FOR VILLERS-BOCAGE

1. The British advance on Caen is held up by heavy German resistance
2. American attacks around Caumont create a gap in the German lines
3. The British 7th Armoured Division pours through the gap and swings round to capture Villers-Bocage



THE EQUALISER

The M4 Sherman tank was the workhorse of both the American and British armies. By fitting some with powerful 17pdr guns the British created the Firefly, a tank that could take on the Tigers on equal terms.



KEY PLAYERS

Hard-bitten professional versus military maverick

MICHAEL WITTMANN

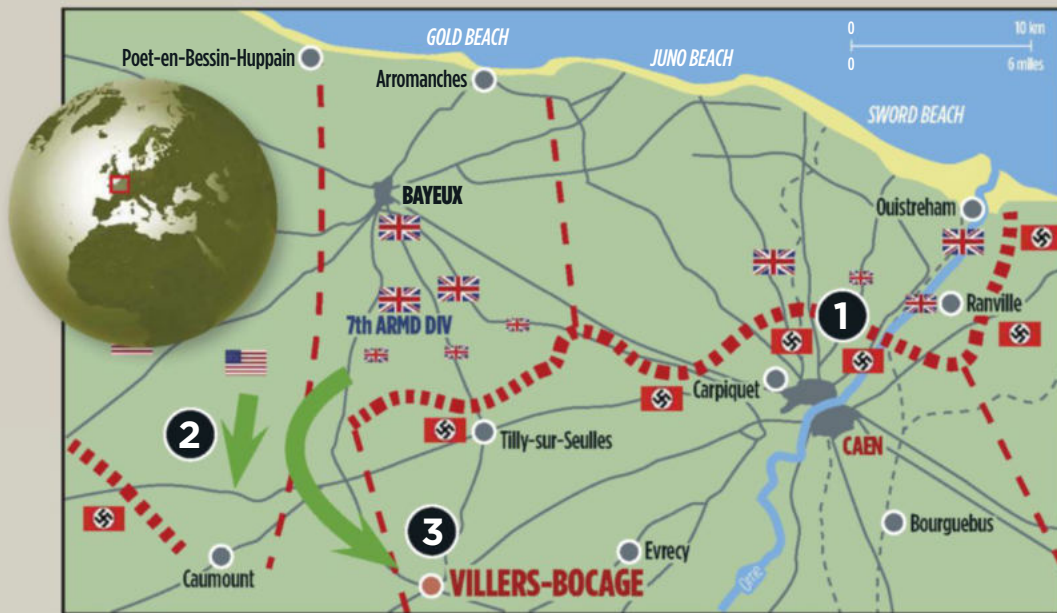
By June 1944, Wittmann was already a household name in Germany, for he'd destroyed over 100 Soviet tanks on the Eastern Front. The Nazi PR machine made the most of his deeds at Villers-Bocage, implying that he'd single-handedly halted the British. But the panzer ace's days were numbered. Just two months later, he was attempting to stem the British and Canadian advance south of Caen when his Tiger was knocked out by a Sherman Firefly. The 30-year-old Wittmann and all his crew were killed. Historians still argue over who fired the fatal shot.



WILLIAN HINDE

Brigadier William 'Looney' Hinde, the commander of the 22nd Armoured Brigade, was one of the British Army's more eccentric soldiers. Oblivious to danger, he led from the front to such an extent that he was often mistaken for the enemy by his own men. But his finest moment came on the day after the battle at Villers-Bocage. He was briefing his officers when he suddenly broke off, peered at the ground and called for a matchbox. When Lt-Col Mike Carver suggested that this wasn't the time for such distractions, Hinde said: "Don't be such a bloody fool, Mike. You can fight a battle every day of your life, but you might not see a caterpillar like that in 15 years!"





TIGER'S PREY
Lieutenant Cloudsley-Thompson's Cromwell stood little chance against Wittmann's mighty tank

TANK TROUBLES

While British tanks like the Cromwell and the Sherman were a match for the Wehrmacht's commonest tank, the Panzer Mk IV, Germany's Panther and Tiger tanks were a different proposition altogether. Their deadly guns could easily penetrate the armour of their opponents while, until the British fitted the powerful 17-pounder gun into some of their Sherman tanks, the frontal armour of the Tigers and Panthers was practically impervious to anything fired at them. The main drawback of these German super tanks was that, although they were deadly on the battlefield, they were mechanically unreliable – as many were lost to breakdown as to enemy action. They were also so expensive to manufacture that replacements were virtually non-existent, especially as the Allies routinely bombed the factories that made their components. In contrast, British tanks were relatively easy to replace if they were knocked out,

although of course that was of little comfort to the crews who had to go into battle in them.

OUTSIDE BROADCAST

The Firefly's big gun left no room in the turret for a radio. It had to be stored in an armoured box at the back called a bustle.

COMMANDER'S HATCH

Sherman tanks had an alarming tendency to burst into flames when hit, giving their crews just seconds to escape.

TANK BUSTER

The Projector Infantry Anti-Tank (or PIAT) proved deadly at close range against armour.

ROAD TO HELL

FAR RIGHT: Wittmann's attack left the route into Villers-Bocage littered with destroyed vehicles and knocked-out guns





BATTLEFIELD VILLERS-BOCAGE, 13 JUNE 1944

crewmate managed to escape from the blazing tank, but two others weren't so lucky. Wittmann's trail of destruction was about to come to an end. His Tiger was hit on the tracks by a shell from an anti-tank gun and ground to a halt. Wittmann and his crew kept British heads down by spraying the area with the tank's machine guns and then, taking all the weapons they could carry, they escaped on foot across the fields.

Meanwhile, back at Point 213, the British were pinned down by the other tanks of Wittmann's company. Around mid-morning, Hauptsturmführer Möbius arrived on the scene with a second company of Tiger tanks. Cranley's men were now outgunned and surrounded, and when the Germans began shelling the area, he concluded that he had no choice but to surrender. At least six British tanks had already been knocked out there – the rest were now captured. A few men managed to escape back to British lines, but Viscount Cranley wasn't one of them. He was taken prisoner while trying to escape. The British spearhead had been annihilated, but Villers-Bocage was still in their hands and reinforcements

from the Queen's Royal Regiment were moving into the town. Two Cromwells, a Firefly and an anti-tank gun lay in wait in the square around the Mairie. Commanded by Lieutenant Bill Cotton, they were ready to ambush anything that drove down the main street.

OUT OF STEAM

By mid-afternoon, the defenders of Villers-Bocage had already beaten back two attacks by tanks from the Panzer Lehr division when they heard the rumble of engines and creak of tracks from the east.

Möbius's Tigers were in the town. While four of his tanks moved down the main road, another three worked their way through the narrow streets further south. As the first group of Tigers drove down the main street, they ran slap-bang into Cotton's ambush. Sergeant Bramall in the Firefly fired at the lead tank – and missed – but it was quickly knocked out by the anti-tank gun. Seeing what had happened, a second Tiger halted, but Bramall had spotted it through the side and front windows of a corner shop. Firing diagonally through the windows, he hit the tank and damaged it. Before he could shoot again, the Tiger sped forward past the ambush

83,825

British and Canadian casualties from D-Day to the end of August



BOMB SITE
The main street became pitted with craters, many of them 50 feet wide

“Cranley's men were now outgunned and surrounded”

site only to be knocked out by a Cromwell tank, which darted out and shot it from behind.

The second group of Tigers tried to work their way through the back streets. But their crews could see little of what was going on around them, and without infantry of their own to protect them, they were picked off by the anti-tank weapons of the British troops.

Cotton knew that the Germans might try to recover and repair some of their tanks, so during a lull in the fighting, he and Bramall went from knocked-out German tank to knocked-out German tank, stuffing a petrol-soaked blanket

into each one and throwing in a match. This led to an unexpected confrontation with the local fire brigade, who were worried that the flames from the blazing tanks would spread to nearby buildings and insisted on trying to put out the fires. By early evening, German infantry were arriving in force and beginning to infiltrate the town, while attacks were also made on the Brigade's supply route. Concerned that the troops in Villers-Bocage were out on a limb, Brigadier Hinde ordered them to pull back and join the rest of the brigade near Amayé-sur-Seulles.

The next day, helped by massive artillery bombardments, the British saw off a number of German attacks. According to Major Aird, who'd taken over command of the Sharpshooters, “the slaughter was intense, widespread and gratifying.” But the British had run out of steam. That night, under cover of a massive air raid, the whole division was pulled back seven miles. It had cost them dearly, but the Germans had blunted the British advance. The chance to capture Caen had gone, and it would take a month of fighting before it finally fell. 📍

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The fighting in Normandy was costly for all

Villers-Bocage was a foretaste of things to come. Although the Allies had a huge advantage in men and material, the German army put up a determined, skilful defence. But they were never able to mount a serious counter-attack, and by late June the Allies had established a solid bridgehead. British attempts to advance on Caen made slow progress, but their constant pressure forced the Germans to commit their best troops and most of their tanks to hold them back. This

weakened the German line elsewhere, and allowed the Americans to break through around Saint-Lô in late July.

With the British and Canadians pushing south and the Americans moving into central France, the Germans were now in danger of being surrounded. It would have made sense for them to pull back eastwards, but Hitler ordered a counter-attack to the west instead. It was a disastrous decision. The counter-attack ground to a



LIBERATION IN SIGHT
US troops hold a sign written in German – “Soldiers surrender, you are surrounded”

halt, leaving many Germans trapped west of Falaise where they suffered heavily from Allied attacks. With the rest of the German army in full retreat, the Allies raced eastwards, and on 25 August, after four long years of occupation, Paris was freed.

GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

BOOKS

Daniel Taylor's *Villers-Bocage Through the Lens* is packed with photographs taken immediately after the battle.



Your next break in Normandy?

2016 marks the 950th anniversary of the Norman invasion.

Born in Falaise, William, Duke of Normandy, became the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, the story of which is told in the unique Bayeux Tapestry. To celebrate this occasion, from summer through to December, there will be medieval merriment for everyone throughout Normandy with street markets, festivals, music, dance, sound and light shows and special exhibitions in the towns and villages associated with William the Conqueror and his momentous expedition.

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MANOR BORN
Newton's childhood
home, Woolsthorpe
Manor, Lincolnshire



TOOLS OF THE TRADE
Newton's university apparatus
included this compass and slide
rule. They can be viewed at
Trinity College, Cambridge



Isaac Newton once said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." This became one of the most well-known quotes from the world of science, uttered over 300 years ago by the great mathematician and physicist. His supporters would say it showed him to be a humble man, attributing his great successes to his predecessors and contemporaries. But those that knew the true nature of the power-hungry scientist thought otherwise, viewing the quote as a dig at one of his greatest rivals – physicist Robert Hooke – who was shorter than Newton and suffered from a stoop.

BORN FIGHTING

Cantankerous, ambitious, and prone to intense outbursts, he entered the world with his fists at the ready. Born prematurely on Christmas morning in 1642 in a sleepy hamlet in Lincolnshire,

he was a tiny baby, who avoided the dreaded plague that was ravaging the country at the time. His father died three months after he was born, and he later felt spurned by his family, after he was packed off to live with his grandmother while his mother married a reverend from a nearby village – a man he came to loathe.

Battling through his teenage years, Newton's salvation was his studies. While his mother hoped he'd take over the family farm, his genius in the classroom didn't go unnoticed and a life of academia beckoned. At Trinity College, Cambridge, Newton found a new father figure. Isaac Barrow was the first professor of mathematics at Cambridge University. He immediately

recognised the talent of his new prodigy and tasked him with solving one of the big unsolved problems of the day – calculus, the study of how things change. Without calculus, we wouldn't have the tools to calculate everything from

economic change right through to climate change.

Over the years, Newton became a true polymath – jack of all trades, and master of many. He believed that discovery wasn't

just found by reading textbooks, but through individual observation and experimentation, and took his beliefs to the extreme – for example, he once stuck a blunt needle into his eye socket to see what the effect would be. Fortunately, his eye recovered.

“Battling through his teenage years, Newton's salvation was his studies”



ASTRONOMER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Before Newton, telescopes were massive. They used glass lenses to magnify the stars, but when their light passed through it, the glass separated the colours. Using two mirrors instead of glass solved this issue, and telescopes could be much smaller

PIOUS PIONEER

Newton: the devout Christian

During the Middle Ages, the Church was incredibly powerful, keeping the aristocracy under their thumb. In the 14th and 15th centuries, a group of so-called 'humanists' was formed in France and Italy – they were not opposed to the Church, merely intent on worshipping God away from the restraints of priests.

This was the birth of a wave of newly enlightened thinkers. By Newton's time, religion was still a big part of life, but scientists were trying to understand how God fitted into the picture – alongside their research.

Despite being a scientific revolutionary, Newton was devoutly religious. Aside from his scientific works, he wrote numerous theological papers, which dealt with the literal translation of the Bible. He believed in a monotheistic God, and spent many hours trying to glean hidden messages from the Holy Bible. But his strong beliefs stemmed from his investigation of the natural world. Whether his mind was truly able to align religion and science, no-one knows for sure. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, and his monument stands by the choir screen, near his tomb.

He wasn't finished with the world of optics, though. During the particularly plague-infested year of 1665 when Cambridge University closed, Newton returned to his home village of Woolsthorpe, locking himself away in his laboratory in order to tinker around with telescopes. This isolated period of study proved fruitful, as he began to realise the design limitations of the traditional instruments, questioning why no-one had tried replacing the lenses with mirrors. He found that this simple switch created a telescope that was ten times smaller than traditional ones and much more powerful.

Elated at his discovery, he approached the Royal Society – an elite group of scientists that met at Gresham College

DID YOU KNOW?

Newton was born on 25 December 1642, according to the Julian calendar. On today's Gregorian calendar, that would be 4 January 1643

in London. They were impressed. So Newton plucked up the courage to share his theories on light and colour.

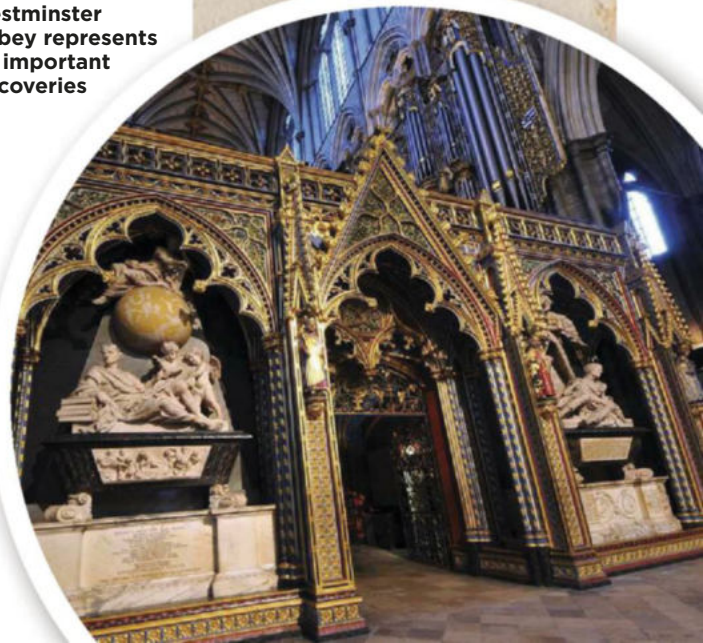
INTO EXILE

But Newton's success was short-lived. Though he came up with the concept that white

light is composed of a spectrum of colours, his muddled methodology confused fellow scientists who tried to replicate his results – without success. The feedback wasn't good, and Newton didn't take well to the criticism – particularly from Robert Hooke, who was to become one of his greatest rivals.

Pride dented, Newton retreated back into isolation.

IN MEMORIAM
Newton's
monument in
Westminster
Abbey represents
his important
discoveries



NEWTON'S LAWS OF MOTION

These three theories on the relationship between a body and the forces acting upon it revolutionised the world of physics

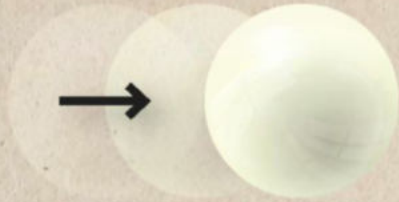
1st LAW

THEORY

Every body remains in a state of rest or uniform motion unless it is acted upon by an external, unbalanced force.

EXAMPLE

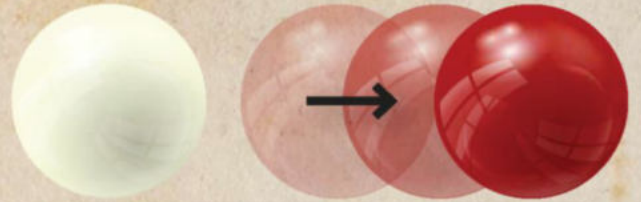
If a ball is rolling along a flat surface, it will keep rolling at the same speed unless something stops it, such as another object like a wall, or the friction of the surface it's rolling on.



The ball is rolling on a flat surface, so it will stay at the same speed



Unless something like an object in the way stops it, it will keep going



In this case, the collision means the first ball is stopped, but the second ball starts after being hit

2nd LAW

THEORY

The force acting on a body is equal to its rate of change of momentum, which is the product of its mass and its acceleration. (Force = mass x acceleration)

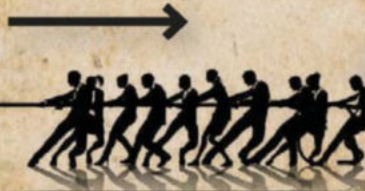
EXAMPLE

You need to use more force to accelerate a 10-tonne truck than a 10g toy car.

The light weight of the car means it can be accelerated using little force



This lorry needs a lot of force to get going because it is very heavy



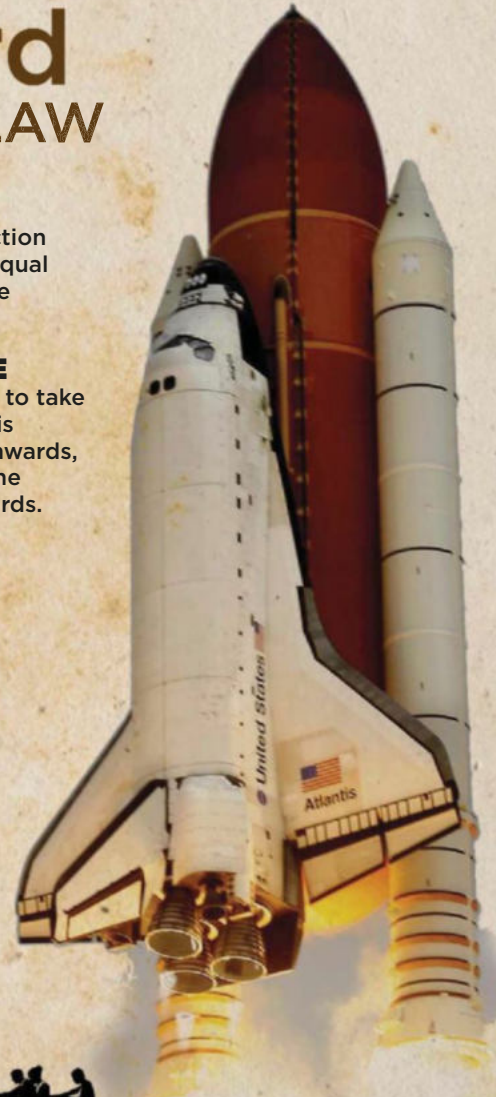
3rd LAW

THEORY

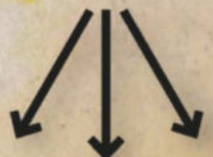
For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

EXAMPLE

For a rocket to take off, hot gas is forced downwards, propelling the rocket upwards.



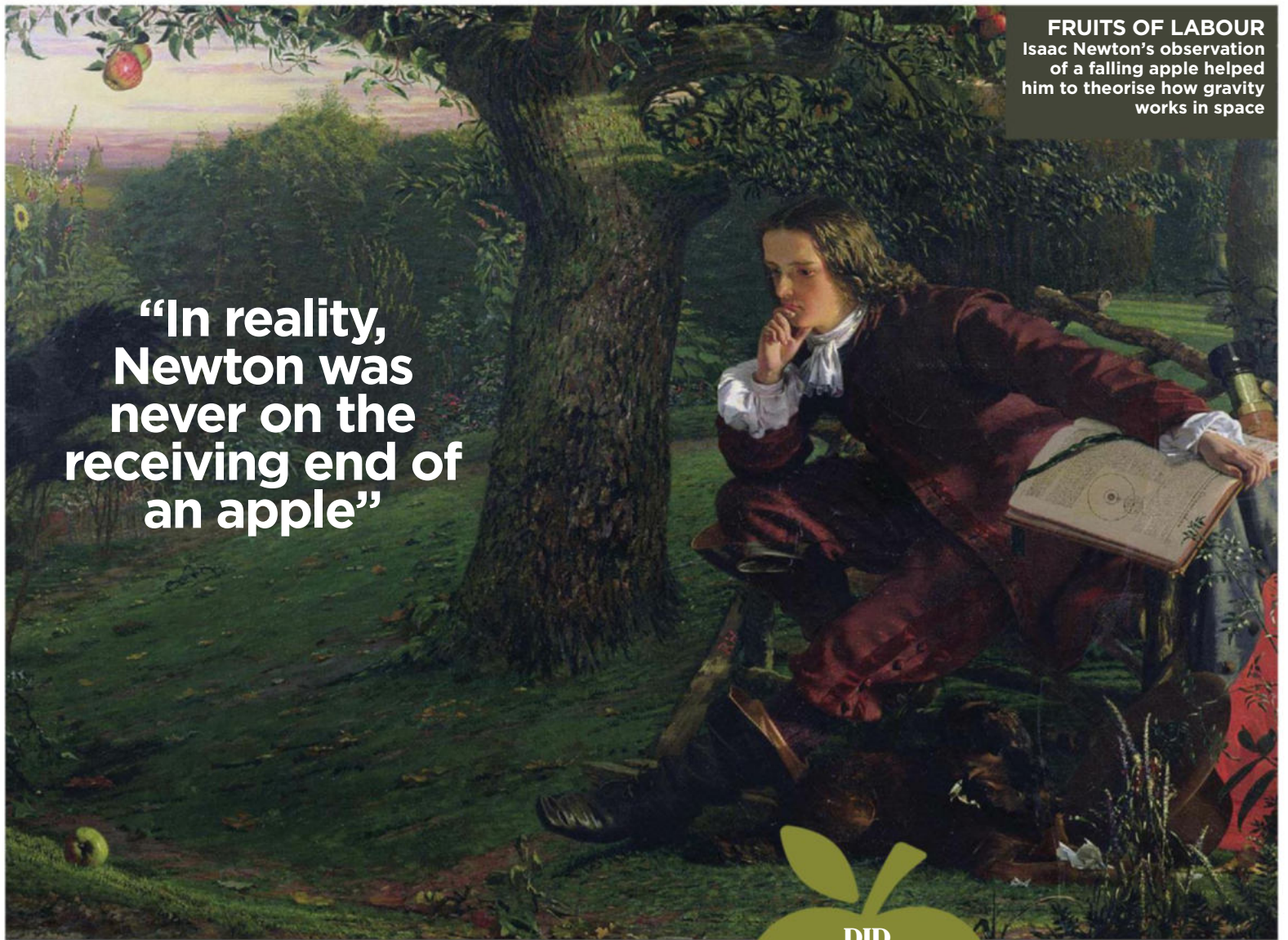
The force of the hot gas propelled out of the rocket means the gas reacts with equal force





FRUITS OF LABOUR
Isaac Newton's observation
of a falling apple helped
him to theorise how gravity
works in space

**“In reality,
Newton was
never on the
receiving end of
an apple”**



DID YOU KNOW?

Newton's dabbling in alchemy led him to believe in the Philosopher's Stone, which could allegedly turn common metal to gold and give eternal life

Devoid of distractions, unshackled from the constraints of university life, Newton explored numerous different areas of science, from alchemy (the medieval forerunner to chemistry) to astronomy. The reflecting device he invented to observe the distance between the Moon and stars was essentially the same as the subsequent Hadley's quadrant – an important navigational instrument used in shipping – but only astronomer Edmond Halley recognised the genius of Newton's ideas. Only after his death was a description of the device found among his papers.

During this time, Newton also crucially came up with what many consider to be the foundation of modern-day physics, publishing *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* in 1687.

Arch-rival Robert Hooke had published a book *An Attempt to Prove the Motion of the Earth from Observations* in 1674, in which he wrote

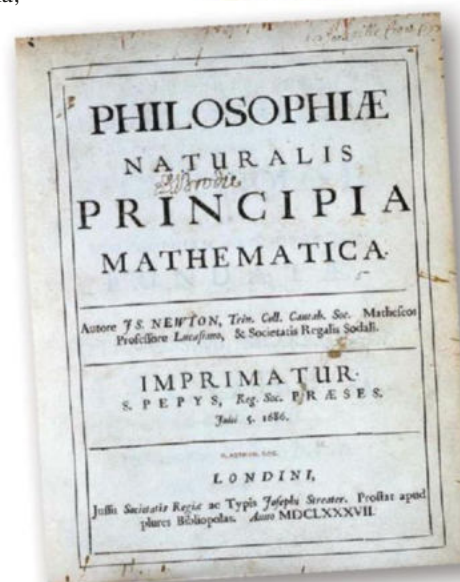
“All bodies whatsoever that are put into a direct and simple motion, will continue to move forward in a straight line, till they are by some effectual power deflected.” Over a decade later, Newton published *Principia*, which revealed his theories on calculus and universal gravitation, and his three laws of motion (see left). But Newton's first law of motion sounded suspiciously like Hooke's theory. This was just one of the times Newton tried to outdo Hooke.

THAT APPLE

To most people, Newton's name is synonymous with an apple falling on his head, which apparently helped him to come up with his innovative theory on gravity. The story goes that Newton was sitting under an apple tree in his garden back

home in Woolsthorpe when an apple fell directly onto his head, causing him to have a light-bulb moment on how gravity works in space. In reality, Newton was never on the receiving end of an apple – he probably just watched one fall to the ground as he was working. It does, however, make for a good tale. Newton certainly did come up with the theory, but in order to do this, he stood on the shoulders of a former giant.

In the late 16th century, the Italian polymath



LASTING LEGACY
It has been argued that
Newton's book is the
most influential text
on physics

ENLIGHTENED ERA

The Scientific Revolution

From around the 15th to the end of the 17th centuries, developments in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology and chemistry transformed society's view of the world around us. No longer did people simply theorise how the world worked, but they used individual experience and scientific experimentation to gain actual knowledge.

Most historians claim this Scientific Revolution was kick-started by mathematician and astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), who came up with his heliocentric view that the Sun is at the centre of our Solar System, and not Earth.

Elsewhere in Europe, scientists carried out various experiments and came up with ingenious inventions. Galileo Galilei worked out that objects of different mass fall at the same speed, and he improved the telescope, which led to his many astronomical discoveries – such as spotting mountains and valleys on the surface of the Moon, and discovering the four largest moons of the planet Jupiter.

And, by Newton's time, when once people believed that the world was composed of four qualities (Empedocles' earth, water, air and fire), scientists now recognised that it was made of atoms, or 'corpuscles' (small material bodies).

This Scientific Revolution was truly an era of scientific enlightenment – perfectly summed up by the Royal Society's motto: 'Nullius in verba', which basically means 'take nobody's word for it'.

BIG IDEAS

MAIN: Galileo experiments from the Leaning Tower
INSET: Copernicus deduces that Earth orbits the Sun

Galileo reputedly conducted a series of experiments from the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa to work out how different objects fall. He discovered that objects made from the same material but of different masses fall at the same speed.

Newton's bright idea was to realise that this phenomenon also worked in space. Again, he stood on the shoulders of another giant by applying calculus to astronomer Johannes Kepler's first law of planetary motion. From this he worked out that the force of gravity needed to lock the planets in their orbits around the Sun. So, Newton made a vital contribution to science when he realised that the whole universe is governed by the exact same law of

gravity, whether it's a falling apple or an orbiting planet. But he wasn't alone in his ground-breaking discoveries. In Europe at that time, the Scientific Revolution was well underway (see left). Alongside Newton, other scientific greats such as Copernicus, Galileo and Kepler were instrumental in the emergence of modern science.

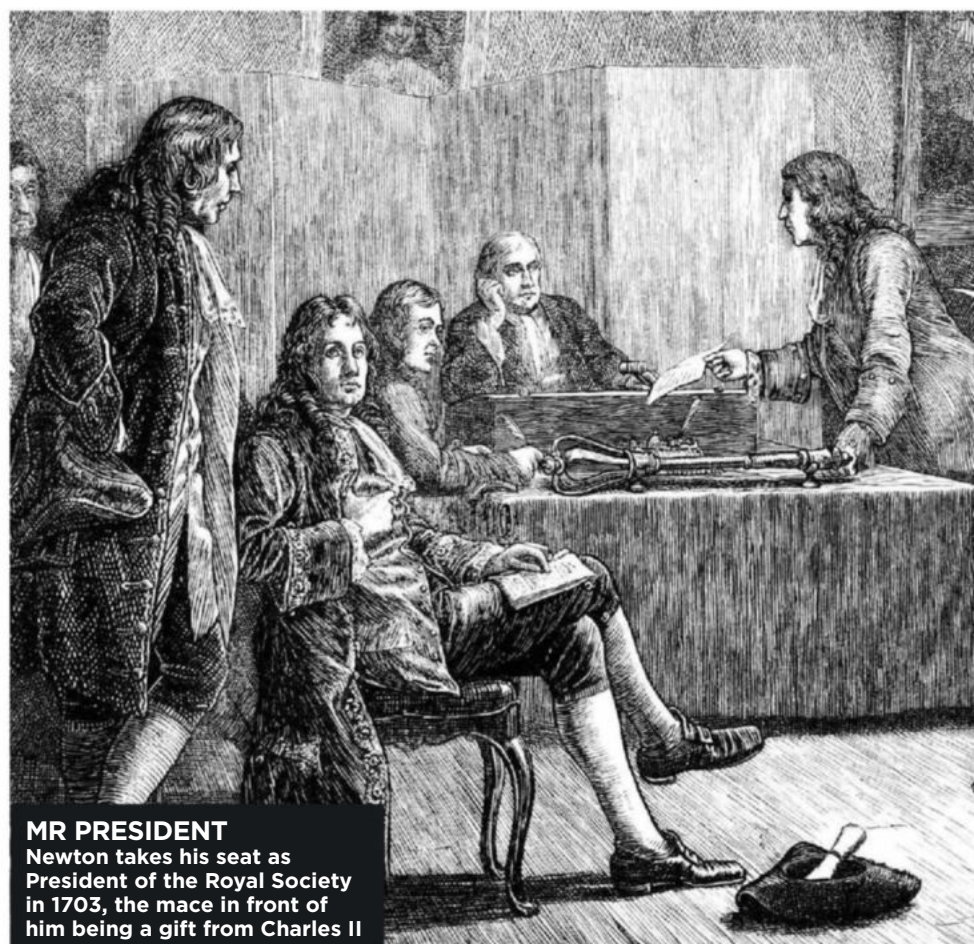
MINT MASTER

But the ever-ambitious and confident Newton didn't just limit himself to the world of science. Newton made many an enemy in the scientific world, but also in politics. He even took on James II when he tried to Catholicise Cambridge University. He successfully fended

DID YOU KNOW?

Newton was elected as an MP for Cambridge University in 1689, but allegedly the only record of his activity is asking for a window to be closed

"The ever-ambitious Newton didn't just limit himself to the world of science"



MR PRESIDENT

Newton takes his seat as President of the Royal Society in 1703, the mace in front of him being a gift from Charles II





HOT OFF THE PRESS

ABOVE: 'Standing on the shoulders of giants', was inscribed around the £2 coin RIGHT: A furnace used by Newton while he was Master of the Mint

off the King's reforms, and entered the world of politics, becoming an MP in 1689. While his two years in office didn't have a lasting effect on politics, Newton did make a huge impact on the economy.

Throughout the 17th century, Britain's finances were in tatters. Up to one in every ten coins was forged, and the metal in them was often worth more than the value of the coin itself. In 1696, he became Warden of the Royal Mint, and set about recalling old currency,

issuing new coins, and hunting down counterfeiters. His dogged determination to rid the country of fraud so impressed the powers that be that in 1699, he was appointed Master of the Mint for the remainder of his life. Financial controller, political pundit, and genius scientist – an impressive CV and an amazing career considering he began life as a farm boy. But this wasn't enough for Newton. He wanted to ensure his scientific legacy and secure his spot in the annals of science.

MEGALOMANIAC

In 1703, Newton was elected as the President of the Royal Society. Taking advantage of his position, he set about trying to callously tarnish the reputations of some of his contemporaries. He tried to remove Robert Hooke from the history books, he antagonised John Flamsteed by publishing the astronomer's catalogue of the stars without his permission, and he quarrelled with philosopher Gottfried Leibniz over who invented calculus (see right). The feud between the two men only ended on Newton's deathbed.

Newton died on 20 March 1727 at the age of 84. Though he never had children, he ensured that his legacy would never be forgotten by having his tombstone inscribed with "Here lies that which was mortal of Isaac Newton". ☹



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Isaac Newton an arrogant scientist or a tortured genius? What is his greatest legacy?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

RENAISSANCE RIVALRIES

Newton's friends and enemies



SAMUEL PEPYS (1633-1703)

The English naval administrator and MP is most famous for keeping a diary of his life. Records show that in 1693, Newton suffered a nervous breakdown, and turned on his friends, including Pepys. Newton later apologised to Pepys, and his other friend, the liberal philosopher John Locke, for reportedly having wished them dead.



ROBERT HOOKE (1635-1703)

Hooke was a consummate intellectual – his interests ranged from physics to astronomy, chemistry to geology, and even architecture and naval technology. Newton didn't like to share the scientific stage. A portrait of Hooke went 'missing' when the Royal Society moved to new premises in 1710. Rumour has it that the then president Newton ordered the painting to be destroyed. Fortunately, Hooke's legacy lived on. He is remembered for being the chief assistant to Christopher Wren, helping to rebuild London after the Great Fire, as well as his contributions to science, from coining the term 'cell' to discovering the laws of elasticity.



GOTTFRIED LEIBNIZ (1646-1716)

In 1684, the philosopher published a paper on his theory of calculus. However, he was unaware that Newton had done similar work two decades before, but never published his findings. Newton immediately claimed Leibniz had plagiarised his work. This rumbled on for almost 30 years until, in 1713, a Royal Society committee met to decide who had invented calculus. Wily old Newton ensured that the report claimed he had, although today both men are credited with the discovery.



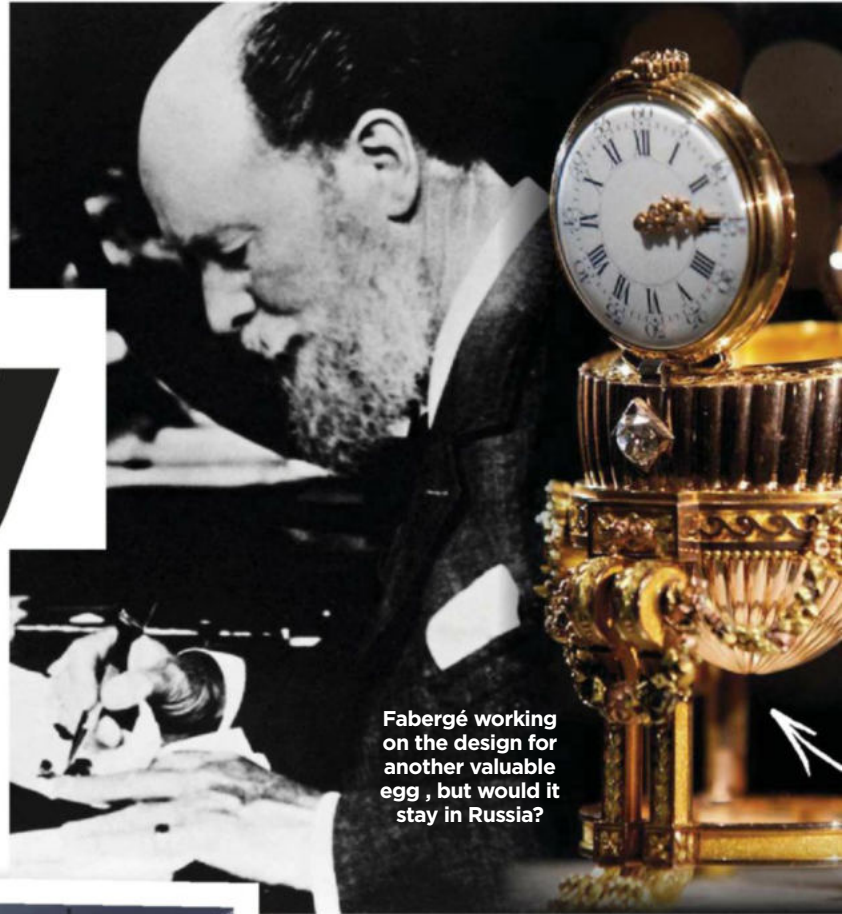
JOHN FLAMSTEED (1646-1719)

The astronomer is the brains behind revolutionary discoveries on comets, which allowed Edmond Halley to identify 'Halley's Comet'. He was slow to publish his work – much to the infuriation of Newton who, without Flamsteed's consent, published it in 1712. The book was error-ridden. In dismay, Flamsteed bought as many copies as he could and burnt them at the Royal Observatory.

Missing booty

From glimmering Imperial Russian artefacts to ancient lost cities, these ten treasures are just waiting to be found

The Amber Room was built using amber panels backed with gold leaf, and took six years to complete



Fabergé working on the design for another valuable egg, but would it stay in Russia?

FLOR DE LA MAR

STRAIT OF MALACCA, INDONESIA/MALAYSIA

Perhaps the richest vessel ever lost at sea, *Flor de la Mar* contained artefacts stolen from the Portuguese colonies, as well as gifts from the King of Siam. Although the ship was in an awful condition by the time of her final voyage, she was still entrusted with carrying the valuable cargo back to Portugal via Goa. Unfortunately for the colonists, the tropical storms of South East Asia closed in one night, and the ship sank near Sumatra in 1511.



THE AMBER ROOM

EASTERN EUROPE

This opulent gilded room, designed with gold, amber and precious gems, belonged to the Russian royal family at Tsarskoye Selo. However, in 1941, it was stolen by the Nazis and was moved to Königsberg (now Kaliningrad, Russia) for reconstruction. Then, as the Allies invaded in 1945, it was lost in the pandemonium – and it's never been seen since. While the hunt for the real treasure continues, visitors to the Russian palace can enjoy a beautifully reconstructed version of the glorious, shining room.

HONJO MASAMUNE

JAPAN

In Imperial Japan, swordsmiths were greatly respected craftsmen, and Masamune was the most revered of all. After World War II, American troops forced Japanese households to give up all weapons, including their ancestral ones – so the Honjo Masamune was lost. Some say this priceless sword is now located in the USA.

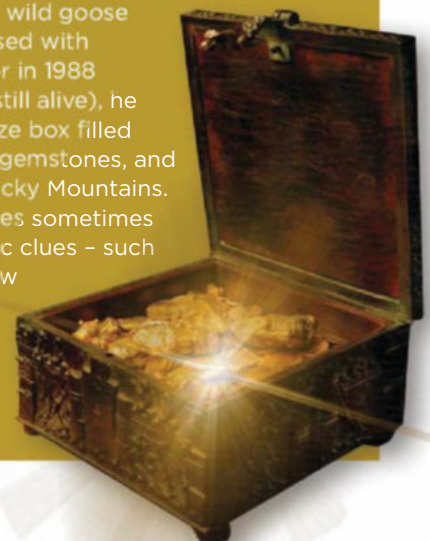


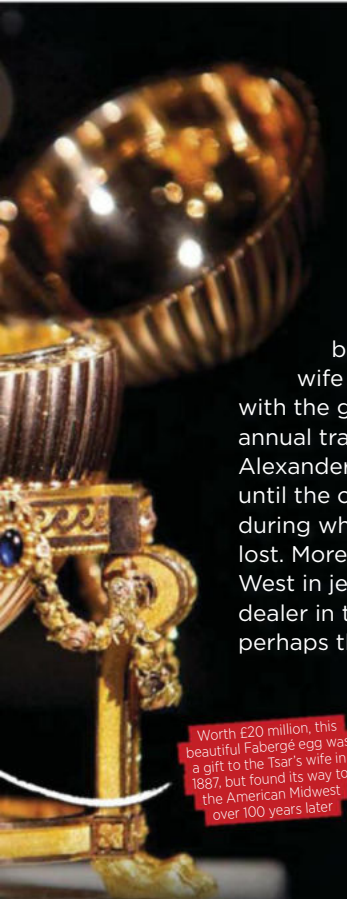
Allied soldiers take stock of family heirlooms

FENN TREASURE

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, USA

Eccentric millionaire Forrest Fenn decided that, when faced with death, he would send the world on a wild goose chase. Diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1988 (though he is still alive), he crafted a bronze box filled with gold and gemstones, and hid it in the Rocky Mountains. While Fenn does sometimes dish out cryptic clues – such as “Put in below the home of Brown” – the chest is yet to be found.





THE LOST FABERGÉ EGGS WORLDWIDE

In 1885, Tsar Alexander III commissioned jeweller Peter Carl Fabergé to make a beautiful, bejeweled egg as a gift to his wife Empress Maria. She was so delighted with the gift that the intricate eggs became an annual tradition, and Fabergé was kept on retainer. Alexander's son, Nicholas II, continued the custom until the outbreak of the Russian Revolution of 1917, during which seven of the original 50 eggs were lost. More eggs were sold by the Soviets to the West in jewellery auctions. However, a scrap metal dealer in the US found one in an antiques shop, so perhaps there's one lying in your attic somewhere!

Worth £20 million, this beautiful Fabergé egg was a gift to the Tsar's wife in 1887, but found its way to the American Midwest over 100 years later

The Inca Atlantis Paititi is said to be built from gold

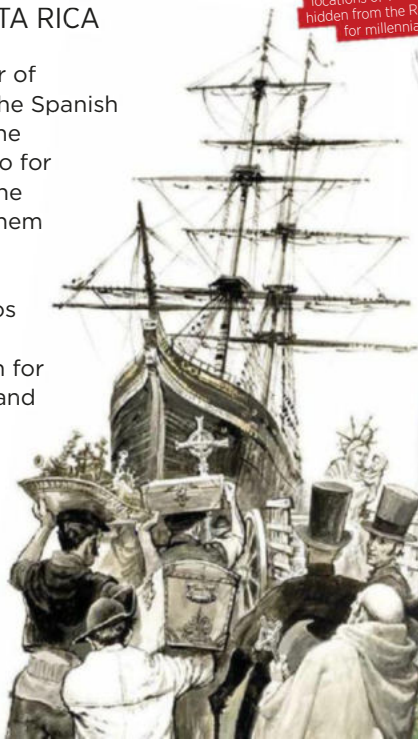


LOST CITY OF PAITITI SOUTH AMERICA

When the Spanish conquered the Inca in the 16th century, they expected to find vast treasure awaiting them, but it was nowhere to be found. It may lie in the lost city of Paititi, a folkloric golden citadel in uncharted Amazon rainforest. However, evidence of the city's existence is scarce. Hunts for it have resulted in finding other valuable artefacts, such as previously uncharted Inca ruins. But in such a dangerous part of the jungle, many explorers have died in pursuit of the wealthy city.

TREASURE OF LIMA COCOS ISLAND, COSTA RICA

During the Peruvian War of Independence in 1820, the Spanish governor of Lima sent the city's treasures to Mexico for safekeeping. However, the ship that was carrying them suffered a mutiny. The captain and his crew reportedly went to Cocos Island to hide the loot, where they would return for it. They were captured, and the captain apparently offered to tell the Spanish the location of the chests. Upon arrival at Cocos, he escaped into the jungle, and was never seen again.



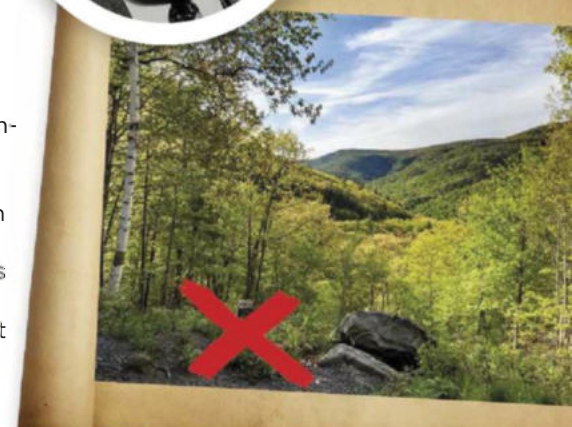
An archaeological treasure by itself, this metal scroll, found in 1952, gives the locations of vast riches hidden from the Romans for millennia.

DUTCH SCHULTZ'S SWAG NEW YORK, USA

On his deathbed, German-American gangster 'Dutch' Schultz started talking of a safe, in which he placed \$50 million of his ill-gotten gains. It was taken into the Catskill Mountains, to ensure that no other mobster would get their hands on it. The safe is supposed to be buried in Phoenicia, New York State, with an X marked on a nearby tree. Each year, treasure hunters trawl the locality in the hunt for Schultz's buried millions.



Paranoid gangster Dutch Schultz met a grisly end, but his legacy lives on



OAK ISLAND TREASURE NOVA SCOTIA

Local legend claims that the notorious Captain Kidd hid £2 million worth of treasure in a pit, but prevented hunters from getting it by building shafts that frequently flood the hole. Sceptics argue that this is a natural phenomenon, but unusual items found inside the pit suggest otherwise. Even former US President Franklin D Roosevelt tried to unearth the famed cash!



TREASURE OF THE COPPER SCROLL WEST BANK, MIDDLE EAST

This Dead Sea Scroll, made just after the Biblical era, gives tantalising clues to locations where family valuables are buried. Unfortunately, the landscape has changed dramatically since AD 100, and clues such as "In the gutter, which is in the bottom of the tank" are no longer useful. Sounds like the plot of a new Indiana Jones movie...



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What other lost treasures are there? Have you ever discovered any valuables in your attic?

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ALL HANDS ON DECK

Supplies are unloaded from a Scottish ship to the British and French base at Balaklava, during the Siege of Sevastopol. Over 200,000 people died in this year-long siege.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PIONEER

Photography was one of the latest technologies used in the war. Roger Fenton (*right*) was sent to document all that was happening in Crimea. For the first time, people at home were able to see what life at war was like.



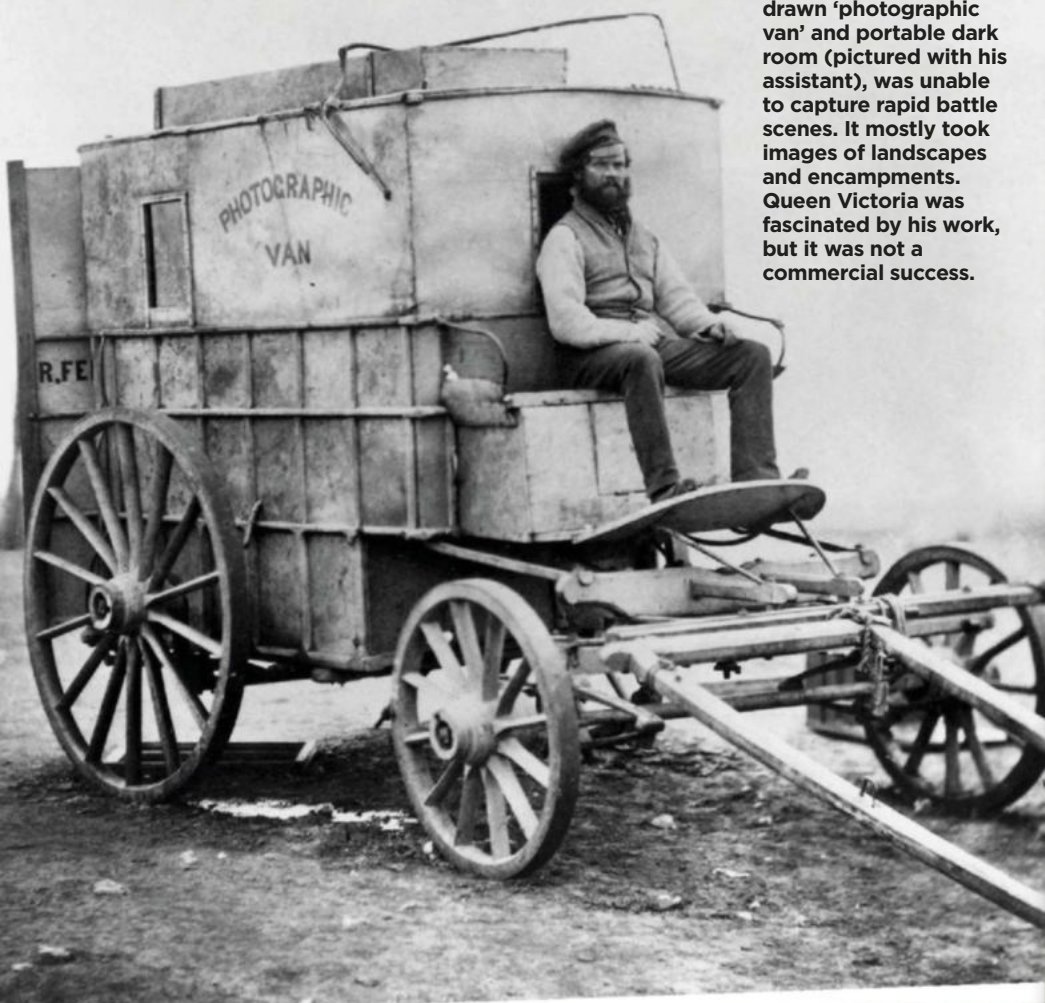
AT A GLANCE

A dispute over the rights of Catholics and Orthodox Christians in the Muslim Ottoman Empire soon boiled over into a fight for territory. Britain, France and the Ottoman Empire allied against Russia in 1853, and fought for almost three years in scorching summers and blistering winters. Russia gave up fighting in March 1856, much to the relief of the British public, who had long hated the war.

ROGER FENTON: CRIMEAN CAMERAMAN

A war known for the incompetency of its leaders and the spread of disease, not for its cause, left Europe broken in two.
One man's pioneering photos tell the story

WAR WAGON
Fenton's equipment, including this horse-drawn 'photographic van' and portable dark room (pictured with his assistant), was unable to capture rapid battle scenes. It mostly took images of landscapes and encampments. Queen Victoria was fascinated by his work, but it was not a commercial success.



LIFE IN CAMPS

Fenton took over 300 pictures of army camps in the Crimea. The conditions he found were a focus for his work.

DINNER LADY

This woman was a 'cantinière', a civilian attached to the army (and usually married to a soldier) who sold wine and food to men who wanted to supplement their rations. She would not receive any wages for her work, and lived off the earnings she made from selling her wares to tired and hungry men.

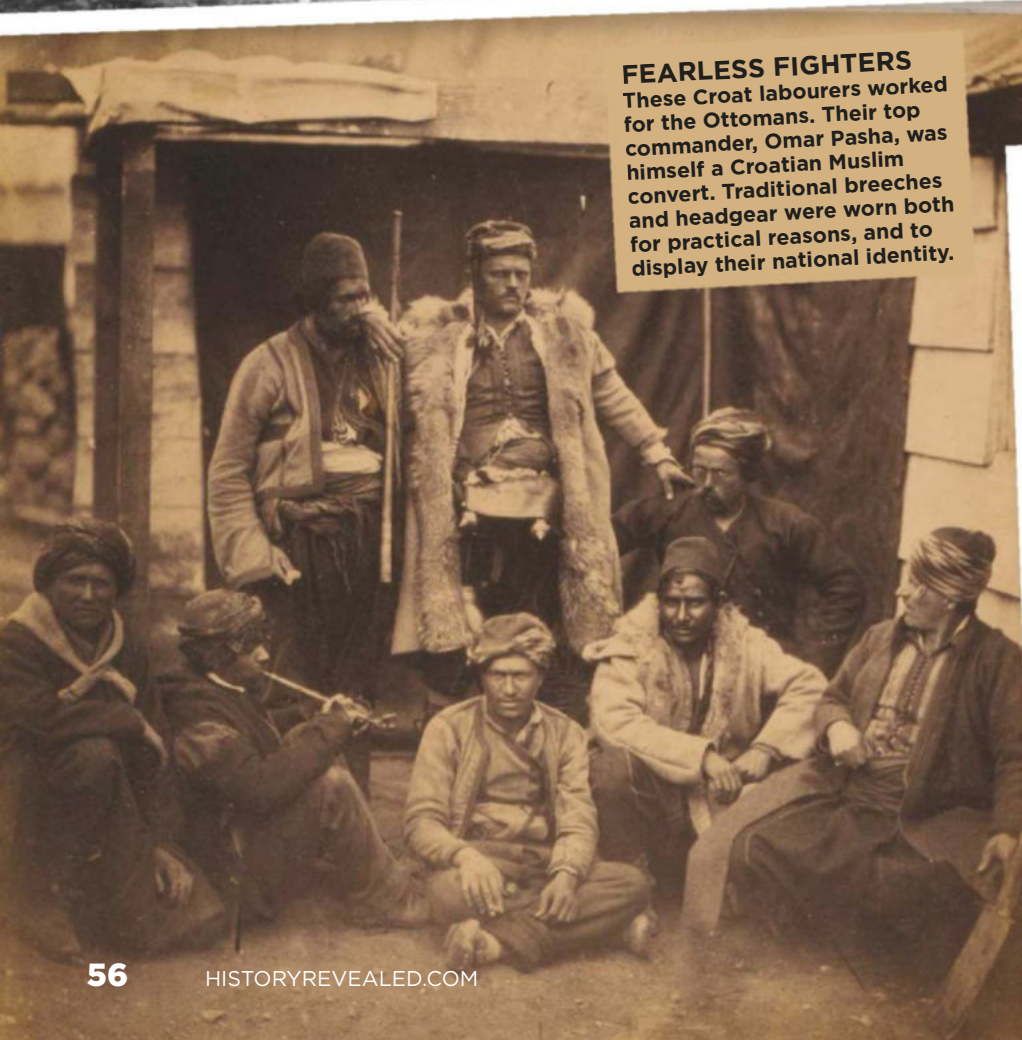


AL FRESCO DINING

Officers and men of the 8th Light Dragoons have a slap-up dinner. Men frequently had to cook for themselves, owing to the lacklustre administration of the war. A soldier's poor diet mostly consisted of dry biscuits and salted beef.



FEARLESS FIGHTERS
These Croat labourers worked for the Ottomans. Their top commander, Omar Pasha, was himself a Croatian Muslim convert. Traditional breeches and headgear were worn both for practical reasons, and to display their national identity.



WARM THIS WINTER

The winter of 1854 was a bitter one, and many soldiers wrote home about the unrelenting nature of the Ukrainian steppe. After complaints from the public, the British government sent out new winter supplies in 1855, including these sheepskin coats modelled by Captain Brown of the 4th Light Dragoons and his servant.



THE CRIMEAN WAR WAS THE FIRST WAR TO MAKE USE OF RAILWAYS AND THE TELEGRAPH

CRIMEAN CAMPGROUND

Mile upon mile of tents was a common sight on the dramatic landscapes of Crimea. This cavalry camp sits on a plain nicknamed 'Church Parade'.



L'ENTENTE CORDIALE

British and French troops share a drink and relax. There is cause for celebration - the bitter winter was over, and much was done to improve conditions at the front.

BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X2, GETTY X3, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS X2

MILITARY MEN

Commanders in the Crimean War may have been reviled for their stupidity, but was this universally the case?



OMAR PASHA AND LORD RAGLAN

Ottoman Commander Omar Pasha and French Marshal Pélissier meet with Lord Raglan, who would die just a few weeks later. Pélissier treated the Ottoman leader with so much disdain that he almost removed his troops from the region.



GENERAL JOHN PENNEFATHER

Unlike many of his colleagues, Pennefather had risen through the ranks on merit, and not by purchasing his role. He played a crucial role at the Battle of Inkerman, in which 10,000 British troops (with the help of the French) defeated 70,000 Russians, all under the cover of fog.



GENERAL PIERRE BOSQUET

Also present at the Battle of Inkerman, General Bosquet (*centre*) was a talented strategist. His greatest triumph was during the final attack on Sevastopol, when his men captured two key points in the city. Upon hearing about the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1854, he remarked "it is magnificent, but it's not war, it's madness".

**"THEIRS NOT TO
REASON WHY,
THEIRS BUT TO DO
AND DIE,
INTO THE VALLEY OF
DEATH RODE THE
SIX HUNDRED"**

ALFRED TENNYSON,
THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE





CANNON FODDER

One of the first truly 'iconic' war photographs was Fenton's *Valley of the Shadow of Death* (*main*), which depicted a road littered with cannonballs. It was supposed to show where the infamous Charge of the Light Brigade had taken place.

STAGED SNAPSHOT?

The recent discovery of this picture of a cannonball-free path (*inset*) has led some to accuse Fenton of setting up his masterpiece for effect.



ONE THIRD OF MEN PARTICIPATING IN THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED

LAST MEN STANDING

What was left of the 13th Light Dragoons after the Charge of the Light Brigade – an ill-conceived cavalry assault against Russian forces that was subjected to direct fire and forced to retreat immediately. The 13th Light Dragoons were in the first line of attack, and one quarter of those were lost in battle.

CONCERNED CITIZENS

Fenton's work publicised the truth of war, which these civilians saw for themselves



WILLIAM HOWARD RUSSELL

Though *The Times* sent Russell to write positive versions of the events on the front lines, his dispatches nonetheless revealed the true horrors of war. The invention of the telegraph meant the public were able to read all about faraway battles within a matter of hours.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Upon reading Russell's work, the young woman was appalled by the squalid conditions in Crimea. Most soldiers were dying from illnesses relating to poor hygiene, not battle wounds. In the hospital where she worked, she ensured all staff washed their hands between treating patients, reducing the death rate by as much as 30 per cent.



MARY SEACOLE

A Jamaican healer and hotelier, the unstoppable Seacole set up a convalescent hotel, bringing much-needed comfort to homesick soldiers. She also went to battles herself to tend to wounded soldiers, putting herself in the line of fire multiple times.

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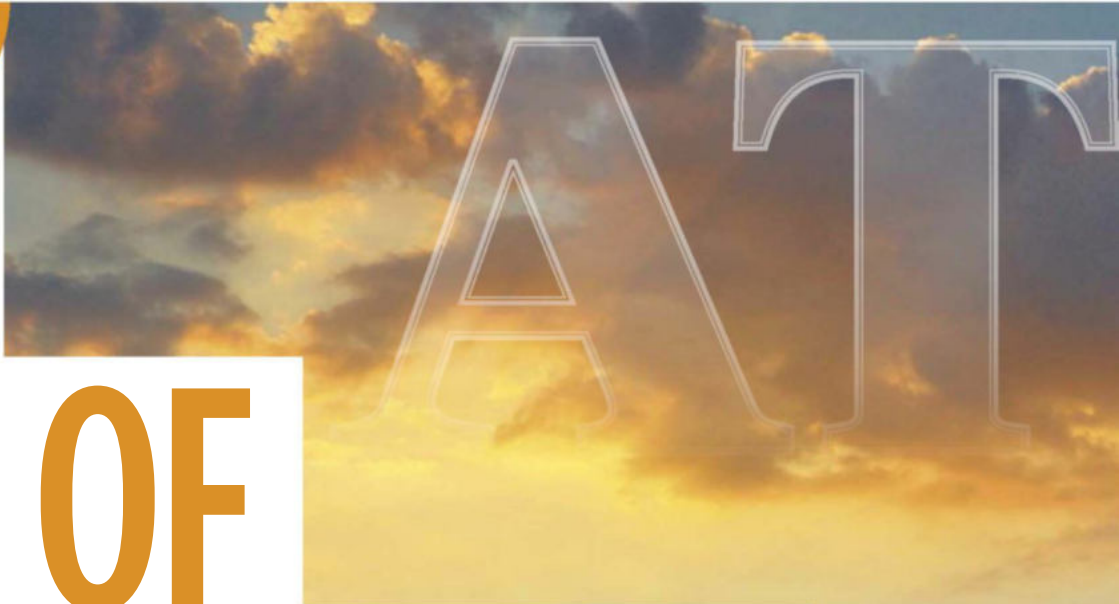


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BIRTH OF DEMOCRACY

From within the walls of Ancient Athens came a revolutionary new form of governance, but not everyone agreed that it was right one, explains **Jeremy Pound**

Pericles, the most outstanding statesman of his era, was about to address the Athenian people. It was 431 BC, the first year of the Peloponnesian War – a conflict that would rage for a further 27 years – and Athens was burying its war dead, an occasion that demanded inspiring eloquence.

Within his speech – today familiarly known as the ‘Funeral Oration’ – Pericles set out just what it was that set Athens apart from others, particularly its Spartan enemies, and why its ideals were so worth fighting for. His words could quite easily have come straight from the mouth of any modern-day politician: “Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people. When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law; when it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the man possesses. No one, so long as he has it in him to be of service to the state, is kept in political obscurity because of poverty.”

As well as inspiring his own people, Pericles’ words rather neatly sum up for us what Athenian democracy was all about. It was,



WALLS

The whole perimeter of the polis was fortified. In case of attack, the population took refuge inside the city.

ATHENS

ACROPOLIS

Destroyed by the Persians in 480 BC, it was rebuilt under the orders of Pericles and the work overseen by famed architects.

STOA

The most important site inside the agora was the portico, where the merchants' shops were found. Athenians walked and discussed under its arcades.

AGORA

The word 'agora' means an assembly of people. It was here where the temples, commercial buildings and institutions were located.

CITY FOR THE PEOPLE

Athens in the fifth century BC was considered the peak of civilised society, laid out to encourage public participation in all aspects of life



POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

MAIN: Artists, poets and philosophers meet to hear Pericles give a speech

RIGHT: The 'bema' of Pnyx, where popular assemblies took place



DIPLOMATIC DEBUT

This decree of the boule (council) and the people of Athens regulated the relations of Athens with neighbouring rival Chalkis.

in short, a system by which all citizens had an equal say. The story behind it is rather more complex, however – a narrative that has to be assembled by learning what we can through scant, and sometimes unreliable, sources, and then piecing together the rest.

The word 'democracy' itself comes from 'demos', meaning 'people', and 'kratos', meaning 'power', and the first written instance we have of 'demokratia' appearing as one word comes in *The Histories of Herodotus*, published in the second half of the fifth century BC. It would not be unreasonable to assume, however, that the term was in use well before then. We also know that Athens was not alone in being ruled by its people. Many other 'poleis' – the hundreds of city-states that made up what we know as Ancient Greece – also had democratic government, but surviving accounts of these are almost entirely non-existent. Our sources for

“Voting ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to various proposals had been pretty much all the ecclesia did”

Athens, in contrast, include descriptions by the likes of Herodotus (c484–c425 BC) and his fellow historian Thucydides (c460–c400 BC), plus, later, those of philosopher Aristotle (384–322 BC) and his entourage.

Athenian democracy as a concept was a fairly organic beast, finding its origins in the social reforms of the slightly mystical poet-cum-politician Solon in

the seventh century BC, then developing over decades and constantly adapting itself to events around it. If, however, one were asked to name a true 'founding father' of the democratic constitution that Pericles so proudly eulogised, it would surely be Cleisthenes.

FATHER OF DEMOCRACY

Born into an aristocratic family – his grandfather, also called Cleisthenes, was the 'tyrant' (ie despot) of the city-state of Sicyon – Cleisthenes broke tradition by turning to the people, rather than his fellow nobility, as a means of establishing his power base. Elected to the post of 'archon' (publicly appointed ruler) in the 520s BC, he re-structured Athenian society in a way that not only broke down traditional local loyalties and hierarchies, but also gave the ordinary citizen a real say in not just voting on but also actually forming major decisions of the state.

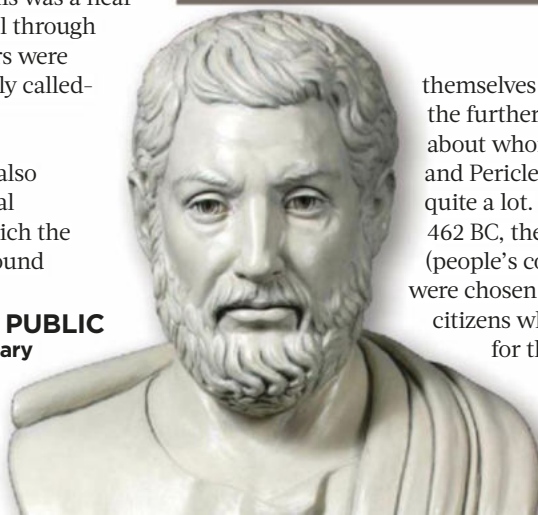


His first important move was to divide Attica – that is Athens and its surrounding area – into ten tribes, each of which was formed of three geographical parts, called ‘trytyes’ – one from the city, one from the countryside and one from the coast. These in turn were made up of local communities called ‘demes’, into which each and every Athenian citizen was registered. Numbering well over 100 (we cannot be sure of the exact total), demes varied in size, but we know that each had its own assembly and leader.

It was, though, Cleisthenes’s formation of the boule (council) of 500 that above all handed power to the Athenian people. For many years, ordinary citizens had some sort of say in the running of their own affairs by means of a voting in the ecclesia (assembly), a public meeting held regularly on the Pnyx hill. But voting ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to various proposals had been pretty much all the ecclesia did. With the formation of the boule – whose members were drawn by lot from the citizen population – ordinary people suddenly were given the responsibility of discussing and formulating the policies to be put to the ecclesia. This was a near-permanent steering council through which all important matters were directed, not an occasionally called-together citizen group.

Added to Cleisthenes’s fundamental reforms – he also introduced the controversial system of ostracism, by which the over-ambitious regularly found

POWER TO THE PUBLIC
Cleisthenes gave ordinary people a say in politics



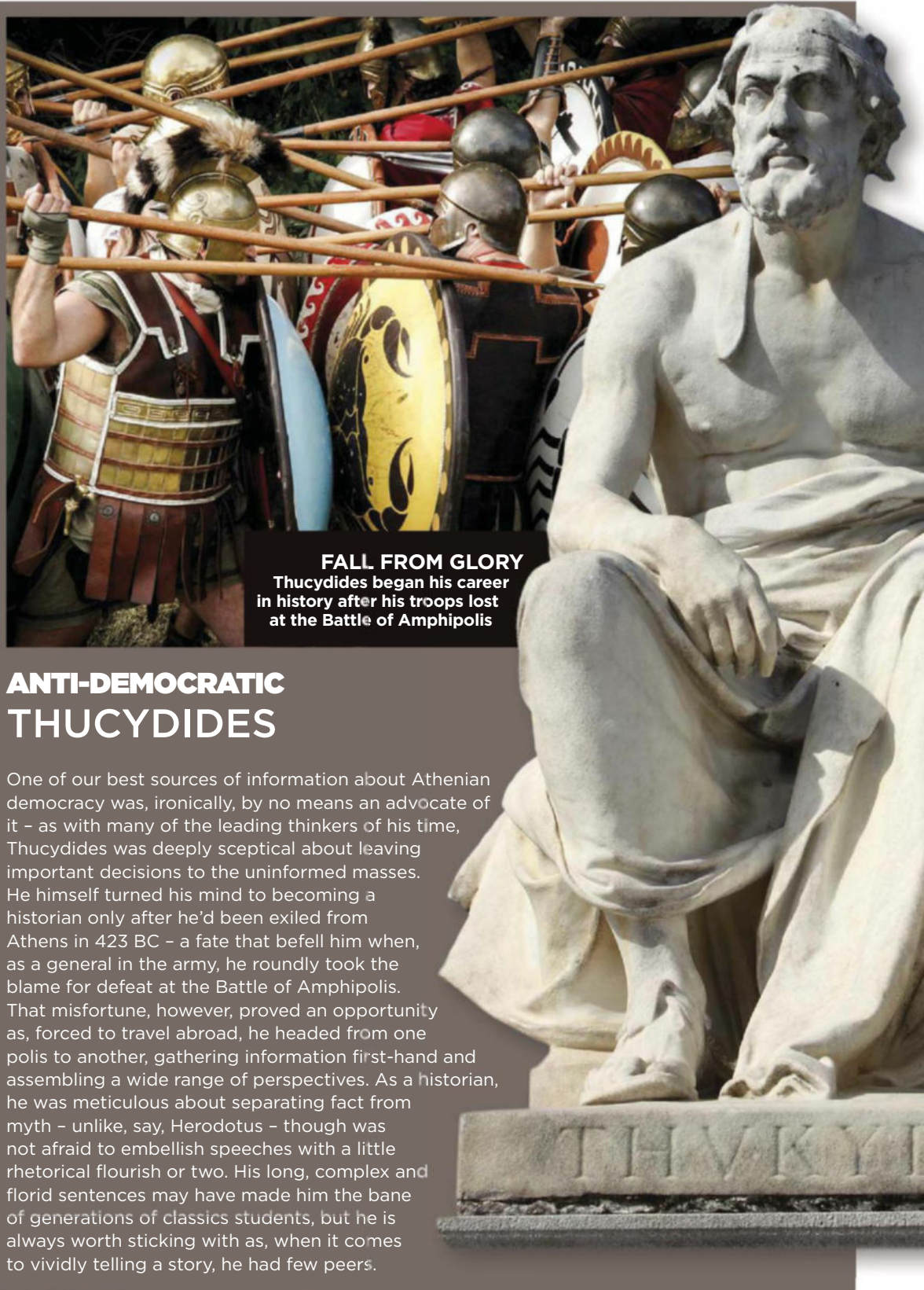
ANTI-DEMOCRATIC THUCYDIDES

One of our best sources of information about Athenian democracy was, ironically, by no means an advocate of it – as with many of the leading thinkers of his time, Thucydides was deeply sceptical about leaving important decisions to the uninformed masses. He himself turned his mind to becoming a historian only after he’d been exiled from Athens in 423 BC – a fate that befell him when, as a general in the army, he roundly took the blame for defeat at the Battle of Amphipolis. That misfortune, however, proved an opportunity as, forced to travel abroad, he headed from one polis to another, gathering information first-hand and assembling a wide range of perspectives. As a historian, he was meticulous about separating fact from myth – unlike, say, Herodotus – though was not afraid to embellish speeches with a little rhetorical flourish or two. His long, complex and florid sentences may have made him the bane of generations of classics students, but he is always worth sticking with as, when it comes to vividly telling a story, he had few peers.

themselves exiled (see p66) – were the further reforms of Ephialtes, about whom we know very little, and Pericles, about whom we know quite a lot. These included, in around 462 BC, the formation of dikasteria (people’s courts) in which the jurors were chosen by lot from 6,000 ordinary citizens who nominated themselves for the task. (That this took power away from the

Areopagus, an ancient aristocratic council that previously held the whip hand in all matters legal, may have sealed the fate of Ephialtes, who soon met a sticky end.)

Under Ephialtes and Pericles, too, pay was introduced both for the members sitting on the boule and for jurors in court cases, meaning that those giving service to the state didn’t have to abandon their livelihoods and find



FALL FROM GLORY
Thucydides began his career in history after his troops lost at the Battle of Amphipolis



OUSTED
Men vote to ostracise a fellow Athenian

URNED IT

Names were scratched onto pottery shards by scribes and then placed into urns. Whoever had the most 'ostraka' would be banished.

GET OUTTA TOWN OSTRACISM

So daft does it seem, that you really couldn't make a concept such as ostracism up. Except that someone did. That 'someone' was almost certainly Cleisthenes, as part of his wide-reaching reforms at the turn of the sixth century BC. Ostracism was, in short, a means by which Athenian citizens could vote for someone they didn't like to be exiled for ten years.

The word itself comes from the Greek 'ostrakon', meaning 'shard', because votes were cast by writing the name of one's chosen victim on a piece of broken pottery. When all the votes were collected and counted up, the person whose name appeared on the most shards would be sent packing. Six thousand would appear to be the magic total to make an ostracism valid, though we don't know for sure whether that meant 6,000 votes had to be cast in total or 6,000 for one particular person.

Ostracisms didn't take place every year, as the citizens were asked beforehand if they would like one to happen. But when they did, it inevitably resulted in someone of major significance being on the receiving end. Leading figures to be ostracised included Themistocles, who had led the combined Greek navy to a crucial victory over Persia at Salamis in 480 BC, and Aristides, a paragon of virtue whose nickname was 'the just'. Whatever one's past glories, being perceived

BROKEN SOCIETY

A selection of ostraka – shards of pottery used by the Athenians to cast votes during the ostracism process

as getting too big for one's boots could have a disastrous outcome.

The point of this strangely arbitrary system was to prevent leading Athenian families creating political stalemate when they jostled for influence, and to an extent it worked. It did, though, have its obvious flaws. Not all citizens could write, so were reliant upon those who could do so to do it for them... and do it honestly. The modern discovery of a collection of shards all bearing the same name and written in the same hand suggests that attempts at electoral fraud were not unheard of. The first ostracism took place in 488 BC, and the last in 417 BC, by which time the concept had been discredited.

themselves out of pocket for doing so. Against a historical background of tyrannies and oligarchies, it really was extraordinarily enlightened stuff.

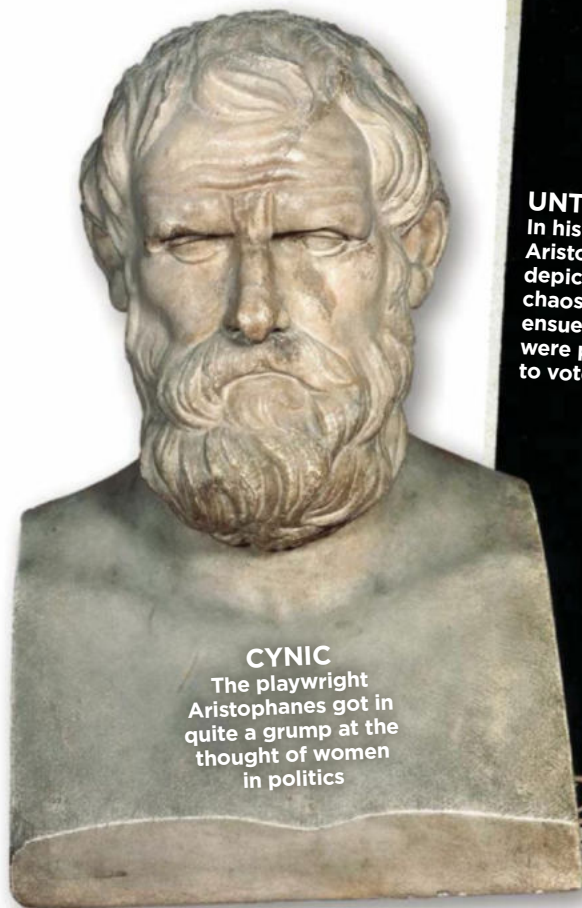
Strangely, though, while Pericles has since enjoyed a heroic status as one of democracy's greatest champions, Cleisthenes, the really radical reformer, has gone largely unsung. "We know about Pericles because of two writers, Thucydides and Plutarch, but Cleisthenes's name got sort of airbrushed out," says Professor Paul Cartledge, author of the recently published *Democracy: A Life*. "This happened partly as democracy developed so much over the fifth century. And then, Athens had two huge revolutions at the end of the century (411 and 404 BC) with terrible blood-letting. They wanted to start again by looking back to some inspirational figure from history who was regarded as above the fray. Cleisthenes was seen to be too dangerous for this – partly because he came from a controversial family and partly because he was credited with having introduced ostracism, which itself was controversial – so they looked further back to Solon instead. And so Cleisthenes got squeezed by Solon, thanks to the Athenians, and by Pericles, who Thucydides was particularly interested in."

FLAWED

Whoever deserves the credit for it, Athens' democracy was a remarkable phenomenon. But just how democratic was it? In terms of basic numbers, not hugely. The simplest bit of maths tells us that only a fraction of the citizen population could have voted at any one time – at a conservative estimate, the population of mid-fifth-century-BC Attica was around 60,000 citizens, and yet the Pnyx could only seat 6,000 assembly members. And given that some of the coastal areas were a good 40 miles away – a hefty walk, even for the ablest – it's a fair assumption that attendance was weighted heavily towards those living in or close to the city. As for secret ballots when they were there? Far from it – voting was done by means of raising the right hand.

Then there's the matter of the many thousands of people that Athenian democracy didn't include. Only Athenian citizens could vote in the





CYNIC
The playwright Aristophanes got in quite a grump at the thought of women in politics



UNTHINKABLE
In his play, Aristophanes depicted the chaos that would ensue if women were permitted to vote

assembly, so that excluded 100,000-or-so slaves – slave labour, both in private households and in public employment, was very much a part of fifth-century-BC Athenian society. And following Pericles' reforms, those of foreign parentage also found themselves without a say – to be considered a citizen, both parents had to come from Athens.

And as for women, the Athenians didn't just exclude them from the citizenship (and, by extension, a say in the assembly), they actively poured scorn on the whole notion. In 391 BC, for instance, the satirist Aristophanes wrote a play called *Ecclesiazusae* ('Assemblywomen') in which, to get their way, a large group of women disguise themselves as men and head into the assembly to vote on measures representing their views – what results is a grim type of communism, plus strict new laws regulating sexual activity. The play's over-riding message, and one that would have doubtless gone down a treat with Aristophanes' male audience, is that given the power to make decisions, women would inevitably make everyone's life hell.

PILLAR OF SOCIETY

Even Aristotle, the great philosopher, argued in his *Politics* that women lacked the rational power to govern and that "the courage of a man is shown in commanding, of a woman in obeying". If anything, women in furiously anti-democratic Sparta enjoyed greater rights than they did in liberal Athens.

For all its flaws and limitations, though, let's not underestimate the importance of Athens' democracy. Aside from the rights it gave to a fair proportion of the people, it also arguably ushered in a golden age in Athenian society. Without the sense of community and, importantly, freedom of speech that democracy brought, would the plays of Aristophanes, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides have enjoyed such popular success? Without this ethos of communal ownership and equality, would Athens' army and navy – both formed of paid employees – won such unlikely but famous victories against the Persians at Salamis and Plataea in 480 and 479 BC? It's tempting to think not.

Lasting from, roughly speaking, Cleisthenes's reforms to Athens' defeat by Philip II of Macedon in 338 BC, Athenian democracy lasted over 150 years. In that time, it survived Persian invasion, defeat by Sparta and two horribly bloody oligarchic coups, only to come out fighting as strong as ever. It was nothing if not obdurate. So obdurate, in fact, that 2,300 years later, leading French and American revolutionary thinkers such as Georges Jacques Danton and Thomas Jefferson were still inspired by its principles. It was, yes, that important. ☐



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is democracy the best form of governance? Have any systems from the past proved to be better?

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“Against a background of tyrannies and oligarchies, it really was extraordinary”



MAN ON A MISSION

A portrait of Solon of Athens, best remembered for his efforts to legislate against political, economic and moral decline

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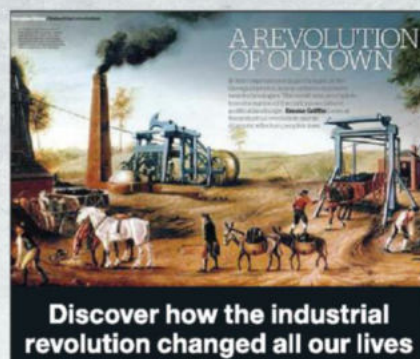
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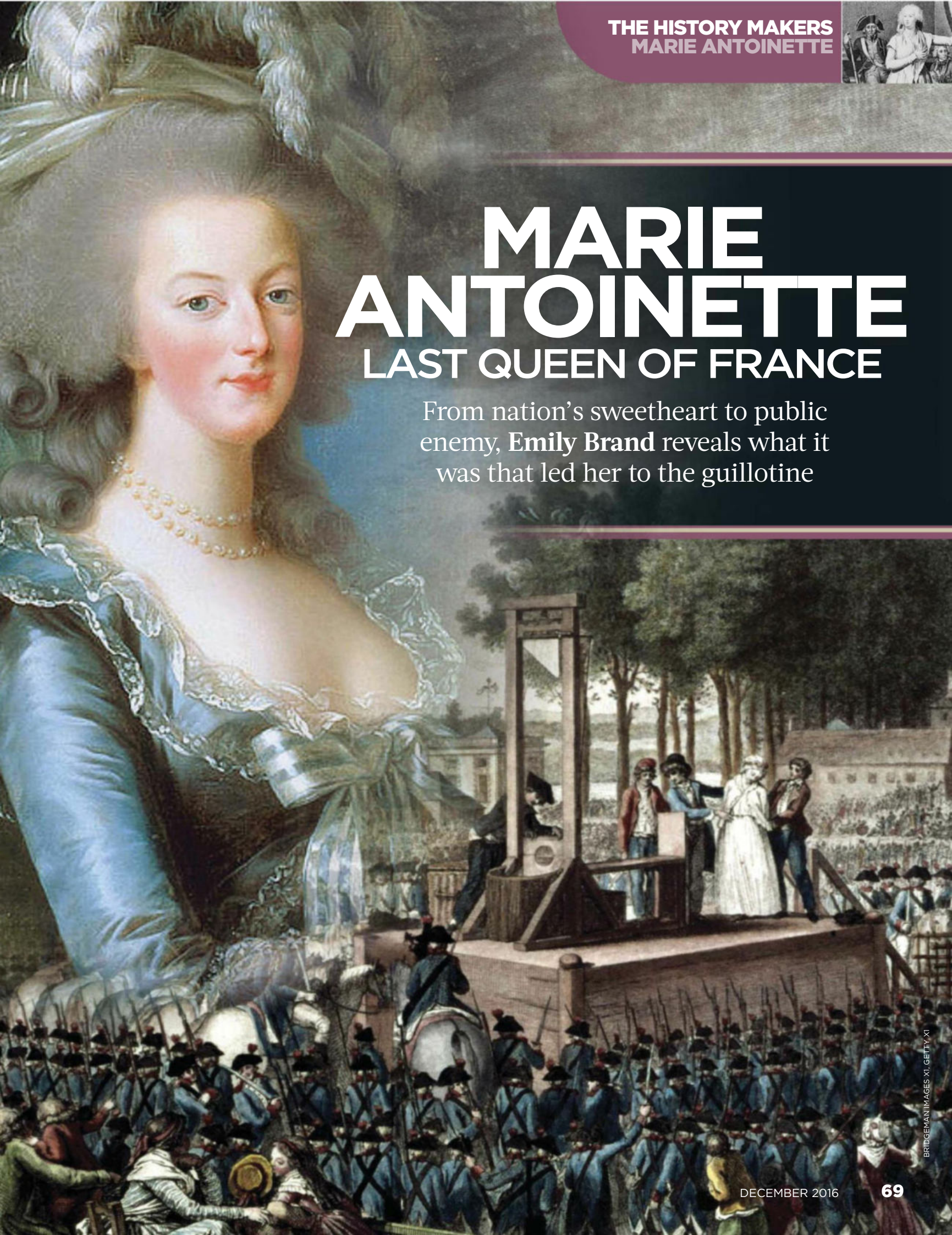
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MARIE ANTOINETTE

LAST QUEEN OF FRANCE

From nation's sweetheart to public enemy, **Emily Brand** reveals what it was that led her to the guillotine





THE HISTORY MAKERS MARIE ANTOINETTE

1755 BIRTH

Born at the Hofburg Palace, Vienna on 2 November, 'Maria Antonia' was the 15th child of Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor, and Empress Maria Theresa. With an eye always on improving the strength of Austria, the infant's strong-minded mother – "the glory of her sex and the model of kings" – lost little time drawing up plans for her future.



1774 QUEEN OF FRANCE

Having arrived in France to unite the two previously hostile royal houses at the age of just 14, Marie Antoinette became its teenage queen in May 1774. Despite some suspicions about her foreign birth, her first public appearance in Paris was a great success, and the reign of this youthful couple was initially met with optimism.

When Marie Antoinette climbed the steps to the scaffold at around midday on 16 October 1793, her execution was hailed as the triumph of liberty over oppression. With shorn hair hidden under a cap and in a simple dress, she was unrecognisable from the queen addicted to extravagance, or the brutal harpy that had become familiar in popular prints. Standing on the executioner's foot as she passed by, with her final words she begged his pardon. The blade of the guillotine fell. The crowd cheered, and some at the front rushed to mop up her blood with their handkerchiefs. Later that day, a revolutionary newspaper declared, "the globe is purified!"

Few would have imagined this tragic end for the child born at the Hofburg Palace, Vienna, in 1755. The 15th child of Empress Maria Theresa and Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor, she was christened 'Maria Antonia' and known to the family as Antoine. She and her siblings spent their childhood in the colourful court of Vienna while their mother charted out their futures, determined to use her large brood to national advantage. Though Austria and France had been

enemies for some 300 years, a fragile wartime alliance had been established when Antoine was an infant. When peace came in 1763, the Empress set her eyes on the grandson and heir of Louis XV. Antoine's matrimonial career seemed clear, and a French tutor was called.

On 19 April 1770, the 14-year-old archduchess married Prince Louis-Auguste in Vienna by proxy, and she left for France to meet her new husband in person. When Maria Antonia von Habsburg-Lothringen (henceforth, Marie Antoinette) was welcomed by the French royal family in May, her charm and "refreshing innocence" was widely admired, and while there were some mutterings about her Austrian heritage, her future seemed optimistic. A whirl of festivities at Versailles set the tone for the court she would cultivate over the next 20 years.

PEOPLE'S PRINCESS?

At her first official public appearance, the Parisian people clamoured for a glimpse of the reportedly beautiful young princess. Unfortunately, popular favour was not won by beauty alone. Her fondness for fashion and lavish entertainments was already attracting attention, and she became entangled in court rivalries that not only endangered her own

reputation but that of her home country. There were also whispers about her husband's weakness – as a potential ruler and in the bedchamber. Three years of marriage showed no sign of producing a much-needed heir. Conscious of her daughter's delicate position, Maria Theresa bombarded her with advice about influencing people, and sought secret updates about her behaviour from the ambassador in Paris – he didn't gush with enthusiasm.

On 10 May 1774, Louis XV died, making Marie Antoinette queen at just 18. Her future seemed secure, but the nation was squirming with unrest. Just weeks after her husband's coronation in June 1775, parts of the country flared up into riots about the cost of bread. Years of heavy taxation and failed fiscal policies were leaving the people hungry.

By 1777, her brother Joseph – then Holy Roman Emperor – travelled to Versailles to identify why the couple were not fulfilling their duty of starting a family. His conclusion was simple – lack of experience, and an apparent mutual disinterest. His stern words clearly had an effect, as the Queen fell pregnant shortly after his visit and a daughter was born before Christmas 1778. A highly social creature, the Queen developed open and long-lasting attachments to female favourites at court. Perhaps the most significant were two of her ladies-in-waiting – the Princesse de Lamballe, and the Duchesse de Polignac. These friendships were later tarnished by accusations of sexual depravity, but more convincing are the rumours about her relationship with a handsome Swedish count, Axel von Fersen, who was admitted into her close circle during the summer of her first pregnancy and left the country in a cloud of gossip in 1780.

Anxiety about the continuation of France's ruling Bourbon dynasty was matched only by

EDMUND BURKE, IRISH STATESMAN, 1790
"I saw her... cheering the elevated sphere she just began to move in, glittering like the morning-star, full of life, and splendour, and joy... little did I dream that I should have lived to see such disasters fallen upon her"





1778 MOTHERHOOD

After seven years of national sighing for an heir (and one pointed visit from her brother, the Emperor), the couple finally consummated their marriage in 1777 and a daughter was born in the following year. Over the next decade, three more children followed, and she hoped to present herself as an exemplar of loving motherhood and domesticity. Unfortunately, it was her habit of extravagant spending during a time of increasing national hardship that filtered into the popular imagination.

1785-6 SCANDAL

A key moment in the public's disillusionment with the monarchy, the 'Affair of the Diamond Necklace' was a scandal that not only dragged the Queen's name through the mud, but ensured that it stayed there. Unknowingly entangled in another woman's scheme to fraudulently acquire a necklace of great value by making use of the Queen's name, she was deemed guilty by entirely unfair association - Napoleon later remarked that "the Queen's death must be dated from the diamond necklace trial".



“No woman knew better how to carry her head; it was borne in a manner that lent grace and nobleness to every movement”

Gabriel S  nac de Meilhan, French writer and contemporary

pressure from her family to influence French affairs in Austria's favour - correspondence from the Empress brims with dissatisfaction at her daughter's apparent lack of political influence. It was a relief to all parties when the Queen finally gave birth to a son, Louis-Joseph, on 22 October 1781 - unfortunately, her mother had not lived to see it. Two more children followed - another son in 1785, and a daughter in the following year. But it was too late to redeem her in the eyes of the public.

FALL FROM GRACE

The French economy had deteriorated further during the 1780s, sparking increasingly widespread disquiet, and the King's failure to find a solution was compounded by the very visible evidence of the Crown's wealth - most notably, his wife's frivolous spending. She had long provoked gossip, but in a world of blossoming print culture, her supposed misdemeanours became inescapably public - disastrously so in 1785. In what became known

as the 'Affair of the Diamond Necklace', the Queen was held responsible for a jewellery heist that was in fact the scheme of the impoverished noblewoman Jeanne de la Motte. In a ruse to obtain a necklace worth 1.6 million livres, La Motte persuaded an out-of-favour cardinal to procure it and arrange payment on behalf of 'the Queen', with her as go-between. By the time the fraud was exposed, it had been broken up and sold. The trial declared La Motte guilty, casting doubt on the Queen and cementing her reputation as deceitful and extravagant.

In the years that followed, France occupied itself with the question of how to recover from its political and economic stagnation. For Marie Antoinette, the national emergency gathering momentum around her was clouded by personal tragedy. The death of their youngest daughter in 1787 was followed by that of their son and heir in June 1789. While the royal couple were deep in mourning, the revolution reached a climax with the Storming of the Bastille, in which a violent throng laid waste to

LOSING THEIR HEADS THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

When Marie Antoinette arrived in France, the road ahead did not point irrevocably to revolution, but bad political choices, unfortunate climate conditions and ideological shifts at all levels of society conspired to ultimately undermine the monarchy.

From the mid-1700s, an economy wracked by wartime taxations and bad harvests was further weakened by the failure of attempts at fiscal reform. The effects of mounting debts and disasters were felt in rocketing food prices and growing poverty, and inspired no confidence in those in power - the royal tendency for flagrant extravagance did not help. The inevitable unrest that stirred among the lower classes was preyed upon by those who opposed the government's policies and saw an opportunity to gain power for themselves. Their efforts were legitimised by radical 'enlightened' theories about liberty, education and human nature that were sweeping across Europe, but perhaps had their beating heart in France. The existing feudal hierarchy was increasingly questioned, and the vacillating and unsure stance taken by the King did nothing to restore faith. As mistrust of elites and outsiders mounted, the wave of popular feeling increased.

The growing print culture - political tracts, bawdy ballads, popular prints - ensured that the message was heard far and wide, and was a key uniting factor for the revolutionary cause. It was here that the Queen was transformed into a "monster in everything", a symbol of the hated old system, and a crucial scapegoat for all the ills of the nation. The increasingly personal attacks on the royals, particularly Marie Antoinette, chipped away at the national consciousness, and in demystifying the monarchy, also facilitated its downfall. On 14 July 1789, this climaxed with the Storming of the Bastille, a symbol of despotic rule, and triggered the spread of revolutionary action across France.

UNDER FIRE
Anti-monarchists storm the Bastille - a prison used by French kings





1789 BAD PRESS

Slurs upon her name, initially the preserve of courtly gossip, exploded into the public sphere with the freedom of press accompanying the revolution of 1789. A model of immorality, she was held responsible for her husband's weak leadership, and presented in prints and newspapers as a sex-crazed deviant, a foreign she-wolf, and a bloodthirsty monster with vipers nesting in her hair.

the prison that symbolised tyrannical royal rule. Terrified, the Queen's courtiers began to flee.

The concerns proved well-founded, and it soon became clear that the royal family were not safe. Though repeatedly bending to the will of the newly established National Assembly, the King refused to accept its more radical decrees. In October, thousands of hungry, angry Parisians responded by marching on Versailles itself to demand reform. As one lady-in-waiting recalled, "the insurrection was directed against the Queen in particular; I shudder even now at the memory of the fishwives... who wore white aprons, which they screamed out were intended to receive the bowels of Marie Antoinette". Unable to resist, the royal family were taken to the capital and installed at the Tuileries Palace.

ENEMY OF THE NATION

The monarchy nodded its assent to a new model of government that shared power between the King and an elected assembly, but beneath the surface all avenues were desperately being sought to find support for a counter-revolution. On the night of 20 June 1791, helped by the Queen's friend von Fersen, the family fled in an attempt to find refuge towards the Austrian border. When they were recognised by a postmaster and apprehended at Varennes, it not only spelled their return to virtual imprisonment, but also shattered any confidence in royal promises.



1792 STORMING OF THE PALACE

On 10 August, the royal family were forced to flee a terrifying attack on their home at the Tuileries Palace, during which the majority of their guards were slaughtered by an armed mob. It ultimately spelled the end for the monarchy, which was formally abolished the following month, and the family was removed to the Temple Prison. For the King, it was to be his final residence.

During another year of half-life at the Tuileries, hostility grew.

War was declared on Austria, and defeats were blamed on betrayal by their Queen. On 10 August 1792, an armed crowd stormed the palace, murdering the guards as they pursued the fleeing royals – the 'protection' they were offered amounted to incarceration in the Temple Prison. Three weeks later, the 'September Massacres' saw another mob tear through the city's jails, killing nobles and priests who had

influence Austrian policy proved fruitless, and her own trial was set for 14 October.

The case built against her pulled no punches – she was held responsible for the deaths of "thousands of French-men," accused of manipulating her husband, and incest with her son. She met their claims calmly, but there was little hope for a reprieve. On the morning of 16 October, she received her death sentence, which was to be carried out immediately. She was 37. In her final letter, to her sister-in-law, she displayed both the calm dignity and the motherly love for which she was to be revered in the 19th century: "I am calm, as one is when one's conscience reproaches one with nothing... I embrace you with all my heart, as I do my poor dear children. My God, how heart-rending it is to leave them forever! Farewell!"

"...bad daughter, bad wife, bad mother, bad queen, monster in everything"

Anonymous pamphlet (1792)

opposed the revolution. Among them was Marie Antoinette's closest friend, the Princesse de Lamballe, who had returned from safety in England to support her queen after the capture at Varennes – she was mutilated and her severed head gleefully paraded before the Queen's window. On 21 September, the monarchy was formally abolished, and the next day a Republic was declared. Stripped of their regal powers and with a depleting pool of friends, the end of the Bourbon dynasty seemed inevitable.

In the aggressive tide of anti-royalist sentiment, Louis was tried and found guilty of treason. Following a farewell supper with his family, he was guillotined on 21 January 1793. In mourning and fearing for the lives of her two surviving children, his widow – considered a dangerous rallying point for counter-revolution – was eventually transferred to a solitary prison cell. Any government hopes of using her to

From the moment she stepped from her gilded carriage at Compiègne in 1770 until her rough and undignified cart-journey to the scaffold, Marie-Antoinette was destined to be a focus of popular attention. A child of the Viennese court and a leader of fashion at the height of French power, her 20-year reign saw such economic, social and political change that she was recast from "adored by all Frenchmen" to "avowed enemy of the French Nation". A flawed and feared woman who became a symbol of all that was hated by the revolutionaries, her steady but spectacular fall from grace is perhaps unmatched in its drama and its violence. 📍



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How responsible was Marie Antoinette for the revolution?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



1793 TO THE SCAFFOLD

Eight months after the execution of her husband, Marie Antoinette was subjected to a brutal and humiliating barrage of accusations at her own trial, which began on 14 October. Condemned to immediate death two days later, she is shown on her way to the scaffold by artists as a gaunt figure, simply dressed and with no hint of the beauty or extravagance for which she was famous. The former queen had been dragged sharply down to Earth.



MYTH BUSTED

DID SHE REALLY SAY “LET THEM EAT CAKE”?

The quote famously attributed to Marie Antoinette, “If the people have no bread, then let them eat cake”, was in fact already a familiar attack on privilege by the time of the revolution. It was levelled against Louis XIV’s first queen in the 1600s, and the philosopher Rousseau wrote an almost identical anecdote about a “great princess” years before Marie Antoinette entered France. There is no evidence that the revolutionaries bothered to trot out this well-worn accusation, although it was reported that one heartless politician faced with the starving poor had snarled “let them eat hay”. Its exact origins are unclear, but the story existed long before Marie Antoinette became queen and was first attached to her 50 years after her death.

THE VOYAGE AMERICA TRIED TO FORGET

The US Exploring Expedition was one of the most significant episodes in American history, but it has mysteriously slid into relative obscurity. **Pat Kinsella** reveals how a voyage of discovery was marred by acts of violence

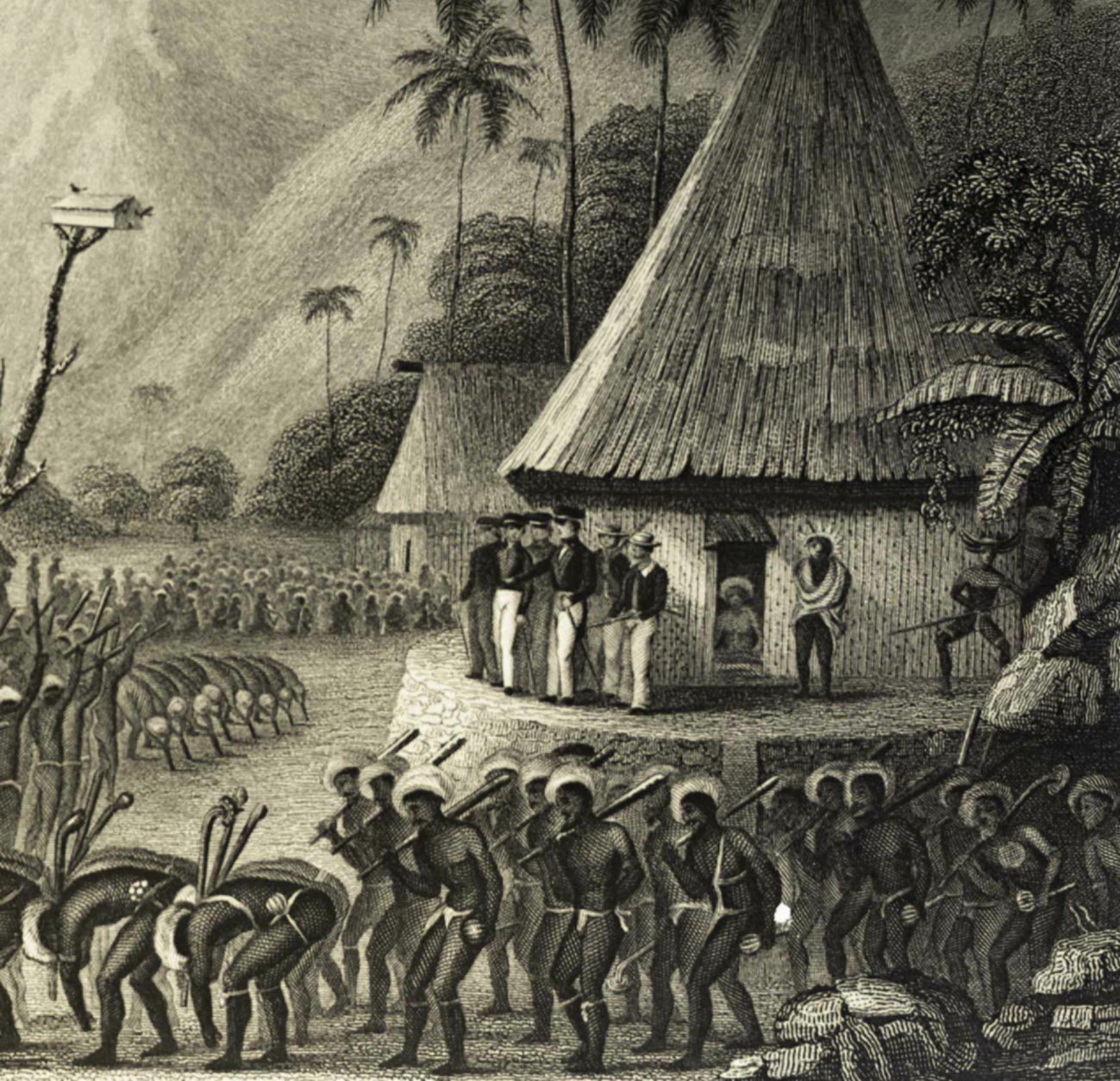
SHAMEFUL SECRET

The native Pacific Islanders suffered greatly at the hands of the Americans

GETTY X2

“When they become
aware of the facts, **they
will see the injustice
that has been done**”

Charles Wilkes, Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition



The United States Exploring Expedition was an epic undertaking that saw six ships spend four years travelling 87,000 miles around the globe, seeking

to advance science and chart new lands.

By any measure, the Ex Ex, as it became known, was extraordinarily successful. It added many miles of coastline to the international map, stamped American influence and authority across large swathes of the planet – around the Pacific in particular, where whaling interests were paramount – and became the first US expedition to circumnavigate the world.

Several of the period's preeminent botanists, biologists and geologists were on board, and these scientists – pioneers in the new fields of ethnography, oceanography and volcanism – gathered 40 tons of animal, mineral, plant and cultural specimens during the trip. This haul dwarfed the combined collections from all three of Cook's expeditions, and was used to establish the now-famous Smithsonian Institution.

Under the sometimes ferocious, but always fearless, command of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, the expedition was arguably the first to find solid land in Antarctica, proving that the South Pole is surrounded by terra firma and can correctly be considered a continent.

And yet, despite all of these era-defining achievements, the Ex Ex receives a fraction of the fame awarded to the Lewis and Clark expedition, and even American schoolchildren are more aware of Captain Cook than they are of Lieutenant Wilkes.

DIFFICULT BIRTH

The Ex Ex was the brain baby of President John Quincy Adams, who first requested funding in 1828. The scale of the undertaking required use of US Navy ships, however, and Congress quarreled over budgets and boats for eight years.

The expedition was finally authorised under President Andrew Jackson in 1836, by which time the original appointed leader, Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones, had lost interest. Several alternative leaders were appointed and resigned before command was finally vested in Wilkes.

On paper, Wilkes was less qualified than some of his peers, but he boasted several unique attributes. Unmistakably a military man – a harsh disciplinarian also possessed with considerable courage – he'd taught himself surveying and other scientific skills, which were an important part of the unusual brief.

THE MAIN PLAYERS



LIEUTENANT CHARLES WILKES

Not the first choice of leader for the Ex Ex, Wilkes got the gig through technical ability rather than rank, and was unpopular with his men.



LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HUDSON

Wilkes' second-in-command, Hudson captained the *Peacock* during the Antarctic-spotting section of the expedition until she was wrecked.

GEORGE EMMONS

Destined to become a hero of the Mexican and Civil wars, and to achieve the rank of rear admiral, Emmons led the overland section of the expedition from Portland to San Francisco, following the Siskiyou Trail.

JAMES DWIGHT DANA

The expedition's mineralogist and geologist, during the Ex Ex, Dana studied the volcanoes of Hawaii and Mount Shasta in California.

TITIAN PEALE

Chief naturalist on the expedition, Peale was a pioneer in the art of preserving specimens. Numerous new species were described as a result of his efforts.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

1: The *Peacock* dodges pack ice and fog 2/3: Sketches of exotic wildlife made by Titian Peale 4: Two men exploring the Oregon Territory measure the girth of a tree 5: The chief of Drummond's Island 6: USS *Vincennes* sights terra firma in Antarctica, qualifying it for continent status

1



5



"I trust that the Expedition will compare advantageously with any other that has preceded it in its moral deportment"

Charles Wilkes, *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition*

2





3

4

6

280

islands around the world were surveyed during the trip

Besides Wilkes' crew of marines and sailors, a nine-strong civilian scientific corps travelled with the *Ex Ex* to document the geology, flora, fauna and indigenous occupants of the places the expedition explored. Many new species were described as a result of their findings, and the specimens are still used by researchers today.

LEAVING AMERICA

Eventually, by mid-1838, a rather ramshackle flotilla of six ships was assembled at Hampton Roads, Virginia, and on Friday 18 August, the *Ex Ex* began its mission, sailing past the Cape Henry Lighthouse at 9am the next day and bidding farewell to America.

Around 300 men were spread across the unusual little fleet, comprised of two sloops-of-war, *USS Vincennes* and *Peacock*; one fully rigged ship, the *Relief*; one brig, *USS Porpoise*; and two schooners, *Sea Gull* and *Flying Fish*. Three of these ships, and at least 30 men, would never return.

When the light from Cape Henry had faded, Wilkes struck out across the Atlantic. He was heading for Rio de Janeiro, but prevailing winds and currents dictated an easterly course, with Madeira the first stop. Sailing south, down the west coast of Africa, the fleet paused at the Cape Verde islands to make repairs before travelling back across the Atlantic and towards the beaches of Brazil.

Arriving in Rio de Janeiro in November, after 95 days at sea, the *Ex Ex* was delayed until the new year, while repairs were made to the *Peacock*. When it finally set sail again, the fleet passed the mouth of the Rio Negro – tiptoeing around an escalating international situation, with the French navy blockading the Argentine Republic's principal port of Buenos Aires –

and then continued to the very south of the continent to shadow the coastline of Patagonia.

AIMING FOR ANTARCTICA

From Tierra del Fuego, on the tip of South America, Wilkes made his first attempt to penetrate into uncharted waters, by sailing due south on the *Porpoise*, accompanied by *Sea Gull* and *Flying Fish*.

Three earlier expeditions had sighted ice shelves around Antarctica in 1820, and an American sealer called John Davis even claimed to have landed there in 1821. But the existence of solid land was required to confirm it as a bona fide continent, and Wilkes was determined to glimpse what lay beneath the frozen crust.

In ships woefully inadequate for the task, they passed the South Shetland Islands and skimmed the edge of the Antarctic Circle, but pack ice and fog forced them back. Even in retreat they were hounded by the angry elements, and somewhere off the wild west coast of South America, *USS Sea Gull* was sunk with the loss of all hands.

The battered boats that remained afloat landed at Valparaíso in Chile, where the sailors spent several weeks effecting repairs while a group of botanists seized the opportunity to climb high into the Andes mountains and collect scientific samples.

When the fleet was once again shipshape, the *Ex Ex* continued north to Callao in Peru. From here they went west, across the enormity of the Southern Pacific, via several Pacific islands to arrive in Australia, making landfall in present-day Port Jackson, in the British colony of New South Wales.

A second attempt was made on Antarctica from Sydney. The fleet split for this section of the expedition, with the botanists travelling east to New Zealand, where they collected a huge amount of plant specimens, while the navy ships attacked the Southern Ocean.

Land was seemingly sighted on 16 and 19 January, but the *Ex Ex* journals officially record the discovery of "an Antarctic continent west of the Balleny Islands" on 25 January 1840. Debate rages as to whether Wilkes was beaten to the punch by just days by a French explorer called Jules Dumont d'Urville, who reported sighting Antarctica on 20 January, and put men

GEOGRAPHY

Originally conceived as an exploration of the Southern Ocean, the *Ex Ex* was the last circumnavigation of the world by sail power alone. The expedition was driven by three occasionally conflicting concerns: commercial, scientific and military

1 18 AUGUST 1838

Hampton Roads, Virginia

The six-strong fleet of the *Ex Ex* departs, sailing east across the Atlantic. It makes resupply and repair stops at Madeira and the Cape Verde Islands before cutting back across to South America.

2 23 NOVEMBER 1838

Rio de Janeiro

After 95 days at sea, the *Ex Ex* arrives in Rio, where it remains until January 1839, while repairs are made to the *Peacock*. The expedition proceeds to travel down the east coast of South America.

3 FEBRUARY 1839

Tierra del Fuego and the Drake Passage

The fleet passes through Le Maire Strait, rounds Cape Horn and continues to Orange Harbour on the southern coast of Tierra del Fuego. From here Wilkes, aboard the *Porpoise*, attempts to sail to Antarctica, but is frustrated by pack ice.

4 MAY 1839

Chile

With the fleet separated around Cape Horn, the *Sea Gull* and its crew of 15 men disappear without trace during severe storms. The rest of the expedition regroups in Chile to effect repairs.

5 10 NOVEMBER 1839

Australia

Travelling via the Tuamotu group, Tahiti and the Society Islands, the *Ex Ex* arrives in Port Jackson and Sydney in New South Wales, Australia, where the fleet is refitted.

6 JANUARY–FEBRUARY 1840

Antarctica

Wilkes make a second, more successful attempt to reach Antarctica. The *Peacock* is damaged by ice on 22 January and returns north, while the *Porpoise* continues exploring until 21 February.

7 MARCH–APRIL 1840

New Zealand and Tonga

After a refit in Australia, Wilkes regroups with the rest of the expedition in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. In early April the fleet leaves for Tongataboo Island, where it spends two weeks.

8 MAY–AUGUST 1840

Fiji

The *Ex Ex* spends three months surveying the islands of this group. Two members of the expedition are killed in an altercation, to which Wilkes responds by launching an attack.

9 SEPTEMBER 1840–APRIL 1841

Hawaii and the islands of the Pacific

After arriving in the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii), the fleet again divides. *Vincennes* spends six months in Hawaii, while the *Peacock* surveys Samoa and the Gilbert group of Kiribati, and the *Porpoise* returns to the Society Islands.

10 APRIL–JULY 1841

Pacific coast of America

Vincennes leaves Honolulu on 5 April and reaches the mouth of the Columbia River on 27 April. Wilkes explores the San Juan Islands and Puget Sound, before learning that the *Peacock* has sunk.

11 AUGUST–OCTOBER 1841

North West America

Vincennes is sent ahead to San Francisco while Wilkes sails the *Porpoise* up the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver. From here a group of scientists under the leadership of Lieutenant George Emmons travels overland to San Francisco.

12 NOVEMBER 1841–FEBRUARY 1842

Philippines and South China Sea

Under time pressure to return home, Wilkes takes the *Ex Ex* on a whistlestop journey across the

LOST TO THE OCEAN
One ship, the *Peacock*, was wrecked just off Cape Disappointment, western US

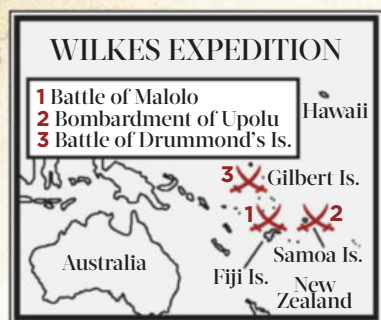


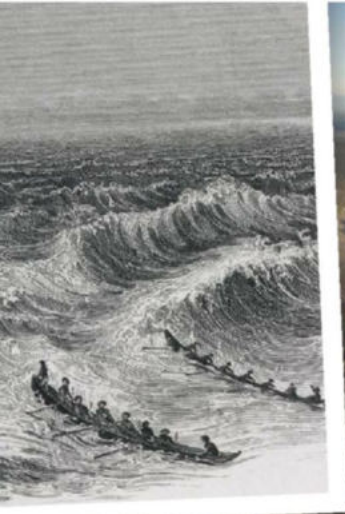
Pacific, stopping briefly at Hawaii and doing a quick round of Manila, the Sulu Islands and Singapore, surveying and signing trade deals along the way.

13 MARCH–JUNE 1842

South Africa and the Atlantic

The expedition reaches Cape Town on 13 April, stays for just four days and then sets sail for home, via St Helena, which is visited in early May. On 10 June 1842, the *Ex Ex* drops anchor for the final time, just off Staten Island.





NATURE'S LESSONS
Studies of Kilauea volcano in Hawaii helped scientists to theorise about plate tectonics

ashore to explore the rocky Dumoulin Islands on 22 January.

The two expeditions even came within eyeshot of one another, when the French ships *Astrolabe* and *Zélée* encountered the *Porpoise*, but the American vessel, under Lieutenant Cadwalader Ringgold, took evasive action and disappeared into the Antarctic mist.

After being caught between icebergs and damaged, the *Peacock* was forced to return north, while the *Porpoise* proceeded to travel west, meticulously mapping 1,500 miles of icy coastline that was christened, and remains known as, Wilkes Land.

BATTLING ON

Wilkes' party returned to Sydney, and the Ex Ex fleet regrouped in New Zealand before heading north, up through the Pacific Ocean towards Hawaii. They visited the islands of Fiji, Samoa and Kiribati en route, and became entangled in a number of violent incidents.

In one skirmish, Wilkes' nephew, Midshipman Wilkes Henry, and an officer, Lieutenant Underwood, were killed while bartering for food on western Fiji's Malolo Island. The Americans, who had been holding the local chief's son as a hostage, responded with a show of force that resulted in the deaths of between 57 and 80 Pacific islanders.

They flexed their muscles again in February 1841, when Wilkes responded to news that an American whaler had been murdered on the Samoan island of Upolu by sending Lieutenant Hudson with the *Peacock* and *Flying Fish* to find the culprits and exact revenge.

The local chief refused to cooperate, and Hudson proceeded to bombard the island with cannon fire, before landing a group of marines and sailors. The natives had long since fled to the jungle, but the Americans torched two villages before leaving.

A bigger battle erupted in April 1841 on Tabiteuea, one of the Gilbert Islands of Kiribati, which the expedition named Drummond's Island. After hearing anecdotal reports of

a shipwrecked party being slaughtered on the island, with a lone woman and her baby spared, Wilkes dispatched the *Peacock* under Lieutenant Hudson to investigate.

The people of Tabiteuea, which means 'land of no chiefs', practised egalitarianism, and there was no leader for Hudson to consult with, but the Americans were initially received peacefully and shown around. However, it soon became clear that one of their number, Seaman John Anderson, was missing, and demands for his return were met with violence.

Soon after Hudson and his party had retreated to the *Peacock* to await hopefully for Anderson's return, the *Flying Fish* arrived. Now in a position of strength, the Americans launched a punitive attack, killing several islanders and destroying a number of villages.

OVER LAND AND SEA

The Ex Ex spent several months in Hawaii, where pioneer geologist James Dwight Dana studied the islands' volcanoes with interest and began making observations that evolved into theories on plate tectonics. By mid-1841, the expedition was skirting America's Pacific Northwest coast, and Wilkes began exploring and charting Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands in modern-day Washington state, just below Vancouver.

Further south, the *Peacock* attempted to enter the mouth of the Columbia River, but the outflow was so severe that she was caught on the bar and sunk. There were no fatalities, thanks to a dramatic canoe rescue led by John Dean, an African-American servant, and a group of Native Americans from the Chinook tribe. But naturalist Titian Peale lost most of his notes and some specimens.

Regrouping, the Ex Ex explored the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver, from where an overland expedition led by Lieutenant George Emmons journeyed south, along the Siskiyou Trail. Collecting specimens and several times forced to defend themselves from Native American attacks, this group travelled through Oregon and what's now northern California, passing

750
new species of plant
were discovered
during the Ex Ex

Mount Shasta and crossing the Sacramento River to reach San Francisco, where they rejoined the rest of the expedition in late October 1841.

NO HEROIC HOMECOMING

A new boat, the *Oregon*, was added to the fleet in Sausalito, but under orders to arrive back in New York by 31 May 1842, Wilkes shelved plans to visit Japan and rushed home.

The expedition stopped briefly in Hawaii and temporarily split during a successful trade-agreement-seeking circuit around Manila, the Sulu Islands and Singapore, before regrouping and crossing the Indian Ocean to Cape Town, minus the *Flying Fish*, which was sold after being deemed unseaworthy.

The circumnavigation of the globe was completed via St Helena, and the depleted fleet reached Sandy Hook in June 1842.

The Ex Ex expanded America's horizons and magnified the nascent nation's position in many commercially important parts of the planet, but Wilkes returned home to a lukewarm welcome. Congress seemed apathetic, the public were indifferent, and his officers complained about the commander's conduct, citing excessive use of the cat-o'-nine-tails. 📍

GET HOOKED

READ

The five-volume *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition* compiled by Wilkes, plus all 17 of the Ex Ex's scientific reports, are available in digital format on the Smithsonian website www.si.edu

If that's a bit much to take on, read *Sea of Glory* by Nathaniel Philbrick, a gripping retelling of the story.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Shortly before the Ex Ex fleet made landfall at Sandy Hook, Wilkes seized all the journals written by crew members, saying they were the property of the US government. He then proceeded to publish *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition*, a five-volume epic tome, which bore his name alone.

Upon his return, however, Wilkes faced a court-martial for the loss of the *Peacock*, heavy-handed violence against natives in Fiji, and overuse of the lash on his own men. He was forgiven for all but the last charge, being found guilty of excessive punishment after evidence given by the expedition's doctors. Wilkes continued to court controversy throughout his career, almost singlehandedly starting a conflict with Britain during an infamous Civil War incident. He reached the rank of rear admiral on the retired list, but his achievements with the Ex Ex have never been embraced with the same nationalistic fervour awarded to other American expeditions.

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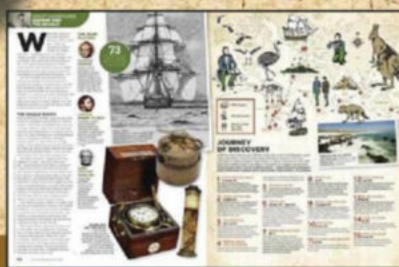
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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

IN A NUTSHELL p83 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p84
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p82 • **WHAT IS IT?** p87

OUR EXPERTS

EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



JULIAN HUMPHRYS

Development Officer for The Battlefields Trust and author



SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



RUPERT MATTHEWS

Author on a range of historical subjects, from ancient to modern



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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Fascinated by ancient Egypt? Want to know all about the wacky Romans? Whatever your thoughts, send them in.



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How many people are supposed to have died from the curse of Tutankhamun's tomb?

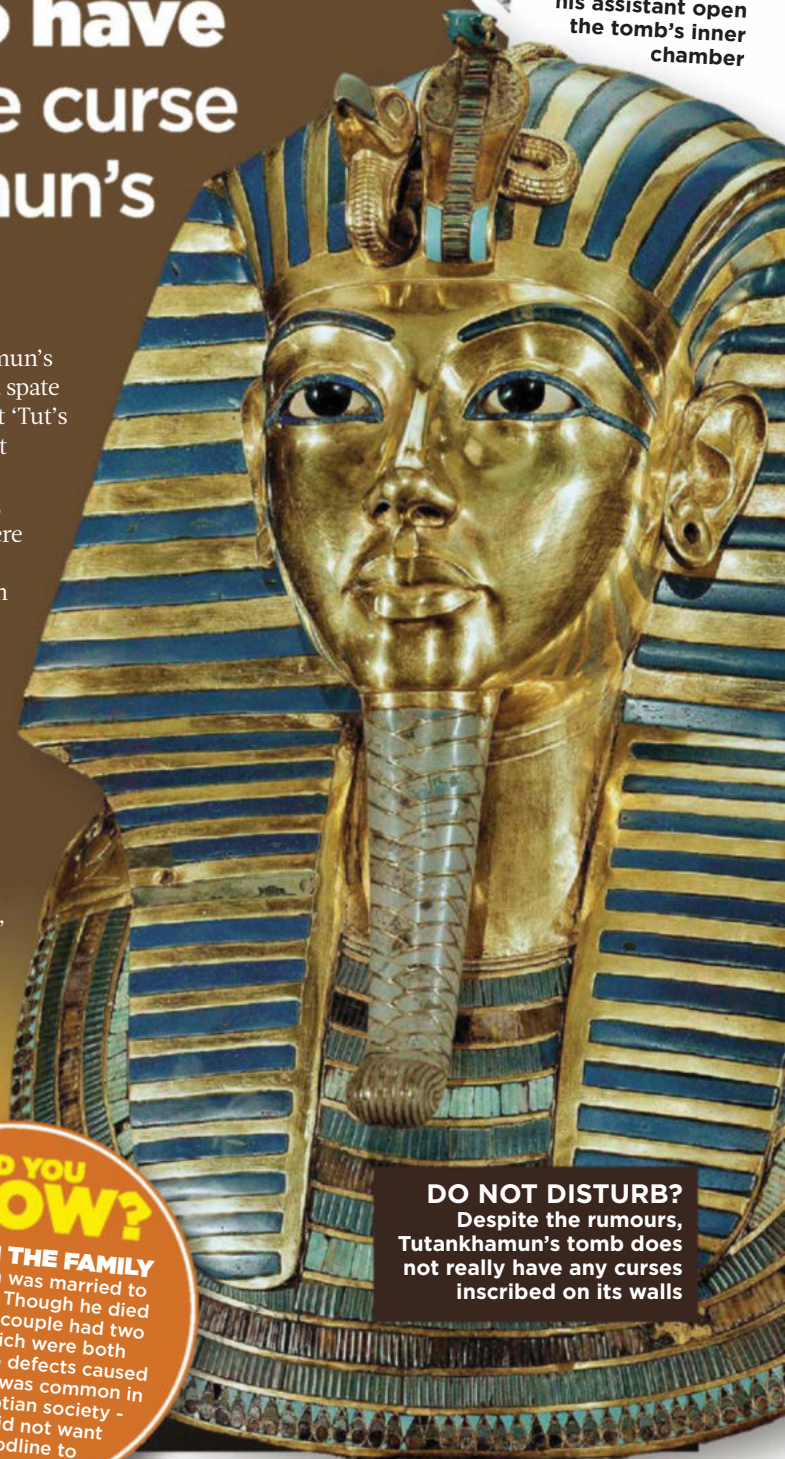


Following the excavations at Tutankhamun's tomb in The Valley of Kings in 1922–3, a spate of deaths caused wild speculation about 'Tut's Curse'. The team was headed up by archaeologist Howard Carter, and the spectacle attracted journalists and well-to-do tourists. For a decade, the obituaries of those who entered the tomb were splashed across the newspapers as evidence of the Pharaoh's vengeance. It began with the death of Lord Carnarvon – amateur Egyptologist and financial backer of the excavation – in April 1923, from an infected mosquito bite. When asked about the curse, Carter wouldn't comment (though it was remarked that he looked quite sick himself).

Seven years later, one newspaper identified 14 more victims – including Carter's secretary and the radiologist who had x-rayed the mummy – plus six unnamed French journalists. Causes of death ranged from murder, suicide and mystery illness to motor accident. In reality, most lived long lives, but the story was recalled with the death of Carter himself in 1939 (in his 60s), and even a colleague who died at the grand age of 80. EB



TOMB RAIDERS
Howard Carter and his assistant open the tomb's inner chamber



DID YOU KNOW?

KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

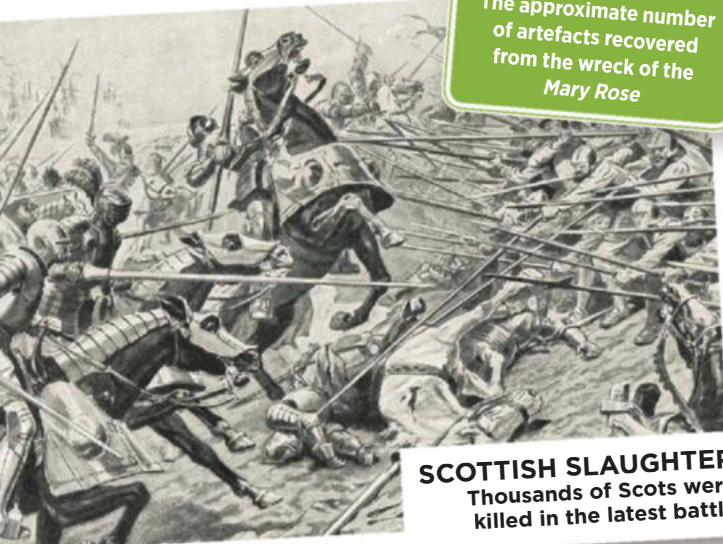
Tutankhamun was married to his half-sister. Though he died at age 19, the couple had two children, which were both stillborn due to defects caused by incest. This was common in Ancient Egyptian society – Pharaohs did not want their bloodline to be impure.

DO NOT DISTURB?

Despite the rumours, Tutankhamun's tomb does not really have any curses inscribed on its walls

19,000

The approximate number of artefacts recovered from the wreck of the *Mary Rose*



SCOTTISH SLAUGHTER
Thousands of Scots were killed in the latest battle

What was the last battle between the English and Scottish armies?

Target Fought on 10 September 1547, the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh was the last formal battle between England and Scotland. It was a decisive English victory in their attempt to force an alliance by marrying the young Mary, Queen of Scots to the boy King Edward VI (a campaign later known as the 'Rough Wooing', which was at its height between 1544–8). The two armies met near the coast at Musselburgh where, in a five-hour battle, the Scottish troops were ultimately surrounded by an efficient and more modern fighting force. While English losses stood at around 500, estimates suggest those of Scotland were anything between 6,000 and 14,000 – many of whom were slaughtered as they retreated. In spite of this, the English did not achieve their aim. Mary was smuggled out to their enemies and betrothed to Francis, heir to the French throne. **EB**

WHY DO CHURCH SPIRES HAVE COCKEREL WEATHER VANES?



According to all four gospels, during the Last Supper, Jesus told Peter he would deny all knowledge of him three times before cock crow the next morning. After Christ's arrest, Peter did indeed refuse to acknowledge his leader. It was only after a third protestation that a rooster crowed, and Peter burst into tears as he recalled Christ's prediction. St Peter's repentance led to his becoming the first Pope. His symbol, the cockerel, was deemed by Pope Gregory I to be a suitable Christian emblem, and some churches started to use roosters as 'weather-cocks'. In the ninth century, Pope Nicholas I decreed the badge should be displayed on all churches and many incorporated the design into weather vanes. The oldest weather-cock is the Gallo di Ramperto, first forged between AD 820 and 830, and displayed on the church tower in Brescia, Italy until 1891. It now lives in a museum. **SL**



WHY DO WE SAY

"TO THROW DOWN THE GAUNTLET"

A steel glove (gauntlet) worn by knights was thrown down to anyone being rude, an invitation to duel. To accept, the recipient picked it up.

DID CALIGULA REALLY MAKE HIS HORSE A SENATOR?



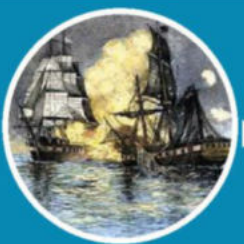
Incitatus, favourite horse of Emperor Caligula, allegedly lived in a grand marble house. We are told that Caligula loved him so much that he wanted to make him a consul (lawmaker). Later writers were keen to demonise Caligula, describing him as pure evil, so it is difficult to know whether he really meant it. Caligula was not the most 'balanced' of emperors, but the belief may stem from the line "my horse could do a better job than you" or from the view that he loved his horse more than he did the Roman mob. **RM**

WHAT CONNECTS...

...A US WARSHIP AND A CREAM TEA?



1 Launched in 1799, the *USS Chesapeake* was a famous American frigate, which captured six British ships during the War of 1812.



2 In June 1813, she fought in Boston, and despite the captain's order – "Don't give up the ship" – she was surrendered to British.



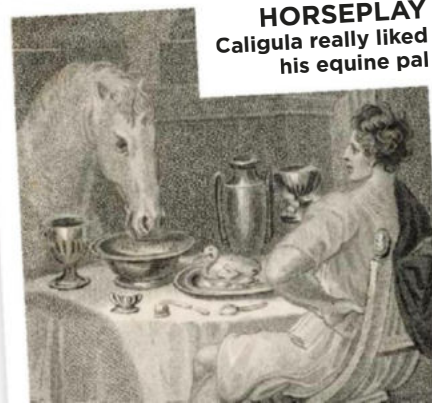
3 After a short spell with the Royal Navy, she was broken up and her timbers used to build a watermill at Wickham in Hampshire.



4 The mill has been converted into an antiques centre and café, so its historic beams now echo to the sound of crockery, not gunnery.

HORSEPLAY

Caligula really liked his equine pal



IN A NUTSHELL

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

A ground-breaking document, which laid the foundations for the United States



What is the Declaration?

Approved by Congress on 4 July 1776, the Declaration of American Independence stated that America's 13 colonies were to be "absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved". Signed by delegates from all 13 American colonies – Delaware, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Bay Colony (including Maine), New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations – it became one of the founding documents of the US government, alongside the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

What events led to its creation?

For 12 years leading up to the Declaration's approval, America had been resisting attempts by Britain to impose heavy taxes on the colonies to pay for expensive wars against France. The colonies saw these taxes as unjust, and initially peaceful

protests broke into rebellion with the destruction of a shipment of tea in Boston, in response to the unpopular Tea Act of May 1773. The British parliament imposed a number of acts that effectively ended self-government and other historic rights in Massachusetts, and closed the port of Boston. American patriots set up a shadow government, and 12 colonies joined them, forming a Continental Congress. In April 1775, hostilities broke out into

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal"

The Declaration of Independence

armed conflict, the movement for independence gathered momentum, and the Declaration was adopted in July 1776.

Who wrote the Declaration?

On 7 June 1776, Virginia statesman Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion that proposed America sever ties with Britain and establish a confederation to unite its 13

colonies. A committee of five men, comprising Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Robert Livingston, prepared a document to outline the justifications for independence.

What does the Declaration actually say?

As well as declaring the 13 British colonies of North

Did it advocate freedom for all then?

Not for everyone. The document contains very illiberal attitudes to black slaves and Native Americans, the latter of whom are referred to as "merciless Indian Savages" who, the document claims, had been encouraged by the British crown to fight against the Patriots.

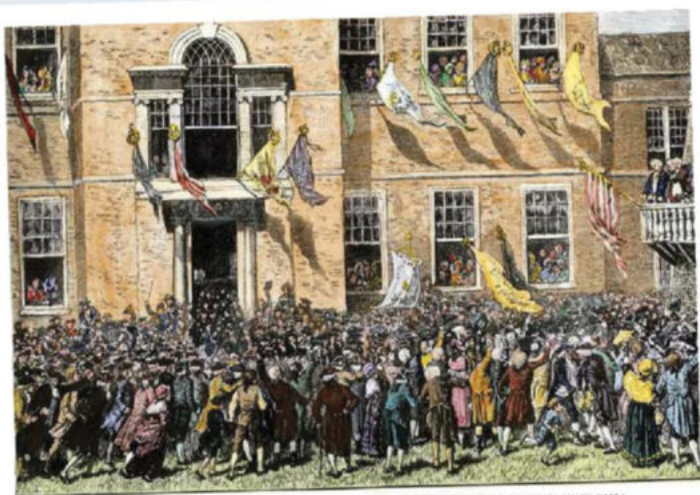
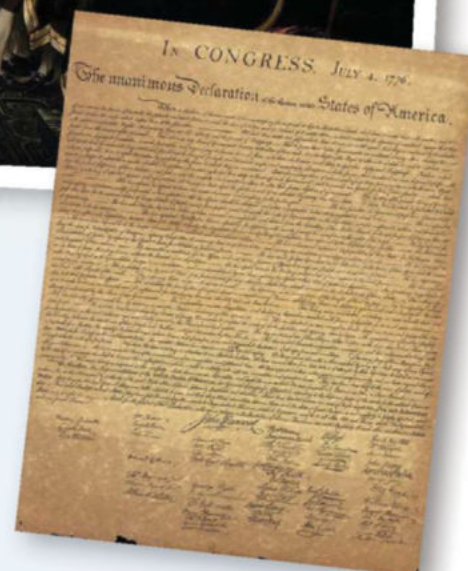
Why is 4 July a US national holiday?

Although independence was formally declared on 2 July 1776, the final text wasn't approved by Congress until 4 July, a date now celebrated annually. The first 4 July celebration took place in 1777, marked by 13 gunshots, one for each of the liberated colonies.

What relevance does the Declaration have for Americans today?

Jefferson's words on humankind's rights to liberty, freedom and happiness are still widely quoted in politics and in literature. Today, millions flock to the National Archives in Washington DC to view the original copies of the three main formative documents of the United States, including the Declaration of Independence.

LIBERTY AT LAST
Five men work together to draft the Declaration, which would shape world history forever



REBEL YELL
The Declaration of Independence is read aloud to cheering colonial supporters in Philadelphia on 4 July 1776

HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

MEDIEVAL CASTLE

Impressive houses as well as functional fortifications, they can be seen all over Europe



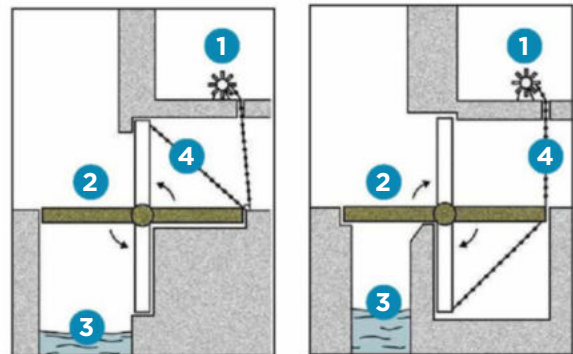
The castles, always in strategic locations, were the fortified mansions of kings and feudal lords. The first castles were built in the ninth century, but over the years the lack of creature comforts and improvements in enemy weapons forced owners to renovate their interiors and improve their defence systems.

TOURNAMENTS, HUNTING AND BANQUETS

In times of peace, the nobility and medieval monarchies whiled away their time indulging in pleasureable activities. The gentlemen boasted before their ladies, with hunting and falconry (bird hunting with trained falcons) providing the food for many elaborate banquets.

THE DRAWBRIDGE MECHANISM

Access to the castle was usually given by the drawbridge, which opened over the moat. If closed in case of an attack, it was a great obstacle. Two types of drawbridge existed, as shown below: to the left, the mechanism of a bridge opening outwards is shown; to the right, that of one opening inwards. The latter kept the interior part of the bridge in a deep hole, which was much more effective.



- 1 The gears, which are manually operated by a guard.
- 2 The drawbridge is usually made from wood.
- 3 A moat separates the castle from the rest of the land.
- 4 The chain controls the movement of the door.

BAKERY

The internal supply of food was essential during a long siege. Here, bread was made for those inside the castle walls.

DRINKABLE WATER

A cistern, collecting rainwater runoff from the wall, guaranteed a source of drinking water during tough times.

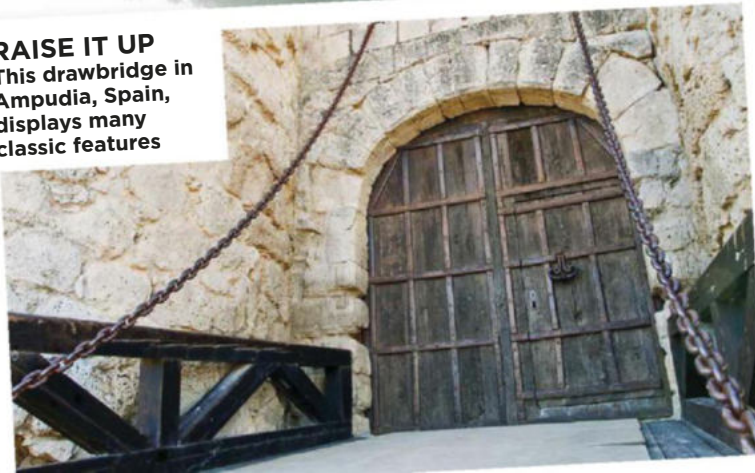
BLACKSMITH

The forging of metals, weapons and armour was performed in here. The blacksmith was a valuable member of castle staff.

SAFE KEEPING

Underneath the kitchens and servants quarters, the owner's wealth was kept under lock and key, to protect it from besiegers.

RAISE IT UP
This drawbridge in Ampudia, Spain, displays many classic features



MAIN TOWER

The rooms at the very top of this tower would be the last stronghold in a siege, a symbol of power. It was crucial to maintain control of these rooms.

CHAPEL

The castle's room for religious ceremonies was normally located under the armoury and above the ladies' bedrooms.

PICTURE PERFECT

Bodiam Castle in East Sussex provides an archetypal example of a medieval fortress, complete with moat and towers

LATRINES

Situated away from the castle, and used by everyone. Waste would flow into the moat for would-be invaders to enjoy.

THE MERLONS, PROTECTION IN THE BATTLEMENTS

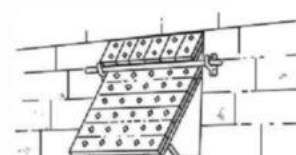
The holes in the battlements left the defenders unprotected as they patrolled the castle walls. This problem was resolved in the 13th century by raised merlons, which held shutters made of wood or metal. They could be fixed in one place or be dismountable, depending on their function.



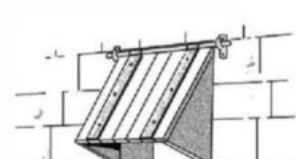
1 Merlons, by themselves



2 Wooden shutter, fixed



3 Metal, dismountable



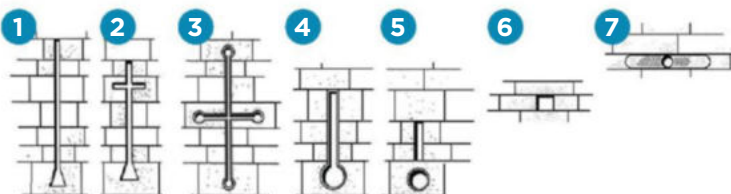
4 Wooden, dismountable

THRONE HALL

This was the centre of castle authority, where orders were given, edicts written, and important guests received.

ARROWSLITS - FOR SHOOTING WITHOUT BEING SHOT YOURSELF

The turrets and merlons of the exterior walls were home to the arrowslits or portholes, small openings that allowed the defenders of the castle to shoot arrows without being wounded. In this diagram, the first three were used for the bow and arrow. The rest are for bows and firearms.




1 Late 12th century 2 Start of the 13th century 3 13th century
4 End of the 14th century 5 15th century 6 Late 15th century
7 End of the 15th century

DUNGEONS

Dark, damp places where prisoners were kept. Torture was frequently used to extract information from them.

WE ATE WHAT?!

AMBERGRIS

 It's unclear who first had the idea of putting whale vomit into their mouth, though it was eaten in Ancient China and used in Morocco to flavour tea, where it was claimed to taste like dragon's saliva. A waxy secretion from the intestines of the sperm whale, it is usually found floating on the ocean or washed up on beaches. The French were particularly fond of it, noting that it had similar appearance to amber, albeit grey – hence amber-gris, and in Egypt people would burn it as incense. A small piece would last for weeks. In 17th-century Britain, ambergris was used to perfume food, mainly puddings, desserts and confectionery, but was losing favour by Georgian times.

TEA TIME
Some use spices to flavour their tea, others use whale secretions



1
The number of prisoners released at the Storming of the Bastille, the great flashpoint of the French Revolution


EXPECTED ARRIVAL
The Spanish Armada lacked the element of surprise



DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT A HOOT!
Florence Nightingale had a pet owl, to whom she was so attached she carried it around in her apron pocket. The bird was rescued in Athens, and grew so fiercely loyal that it was nicknamed 'Beastie'. Unfortunately, they were separated when the intrepid Nightingale left for the Crimea.


How did the English know to expect the Spanish Armada?

 In 1588, when the Spanish Armada (a fleet of 130 ships) set sail from Lisbon, its intention was ultimately to overthrow the government of the Protestant English Queen Elizabeth I. How this was going to be achieved, however, wasn't entirely clear. Plan A appears to have been to sail direct to the Spanish-controlled Netherlands in order to provide cover for a large army assembling

there for invasion. Plan B merely seems to have been to hope that the very presence of the fleet would either terrify Elizabeth into surrender or inspire a Catholic rising against her. The Armada was not part of a swift (or even stealthy) attack on the shores of England, and its arrival was heralded well in advance. As a slow-moving fleet, it proved to be a sitting target for both the English navy and the weather. There was no plan C. MR

MYTH BUSTING

Was Magna Carta signed?

 Yes it was. It's true that images of King John signing Magna Carta with a quill are misleading, because he didn't add his name to the document, but we need to bear in mind the meaning of the phrase 'to sign' has changed over the centuries. Coming from the Latin 'signum' meaning a mark, it originally meant to authenticate something by attaching a seal to it – and this is exactly what happened with Magna Carta.

It's worth noting that there wasn't just one Magna Carta. Numerous copies were made (of which four remain) and circulated around

the country after the seal had been added by royal officials. So, although it wasn't by King John, Magna Carta was indeed signed. Now, of course, to sign something means something different. As time went on, more and more people were sending letters and agreeing to documents, but because they had no proper seals they had to do the next best thing and add their names, or signatures, instead.



ROYAL APPROVAL
Though King John may have been coerced into it – he did sign the document with his seal

Who is the famous explorer found in this sequence of pictures?



How many women did Casanova seduce?



Giacomo Casanova – the 18th-century libertine whose name is now synonymous with womanising – left a diary detailing his amorous adventures, in which he claimed to have bedded up to 150 women (plus a few men); perhaps not quite the dizzying number we might expect from one of history's most notorious seducers. Some of his later biographers have set the number a little higher. However, his attention to detail in his seductions saw him enchant sisters, widows, cross-dressing women, other men's wives and a Venetian nun. **GJ**

WHY DOES THE BRITISH FINANCIAL YEAR START ON 6 APRIL?



Most countries use New Year as the start of their financial year. The UK is unique in holding taxpayers to account, on what seems like a random date in April.

In 1582, the rest of Europe changed its calendar, to correct an anomaly between the Roman 'Julian' year and the time the Earth actually takes to travel round the Sun. The new 'Gregorian' year was created on the orders of Pope Gregory XIII. King Henry VIII had fallen out with Rome, so England ignored the order and stayed with the old system.

People settled accounts four times a year on 'quarter days', the first being Lady Day, 25 March.

In 1752, Britain finally joined the Gregorian system, skipping eleven days to adjust.

Street riots focused around people having to pay tax for a full year despite 'losing' eleven days. The government moved the date forward to 5 April to keep the 365 days. In 1800, a leap year saw the date shift again. After all the fuss, no one could bear any more changes, and the British tax year has stayed at 6 April ever since. **SL**



WHAT IS IT?

AN INSTRUMENT OF TORTURE OR PLEASURE? WHAT DID THE EGYPTIANS DO WITH THIS?



NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Has the Declaration of Independence inspired you? Revolted or impressed by Casanova? Send us your comments!

[@Historyrevmag#askhistrevmag](https://twitter.com/Historyrevmag#askhistrevmag)

www.facebook.com/HistoryRevealed

editor@historyrevealed.com

Answers: Hidden Historicals: Crease Toe Fur Column Bus (Christopher Columbus) What is it? Sistrum, a musical instrument used in religious ceremonies to worship the goddess Bastet

Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • BOOKS p92

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

EVENT

Edwardian Christmas

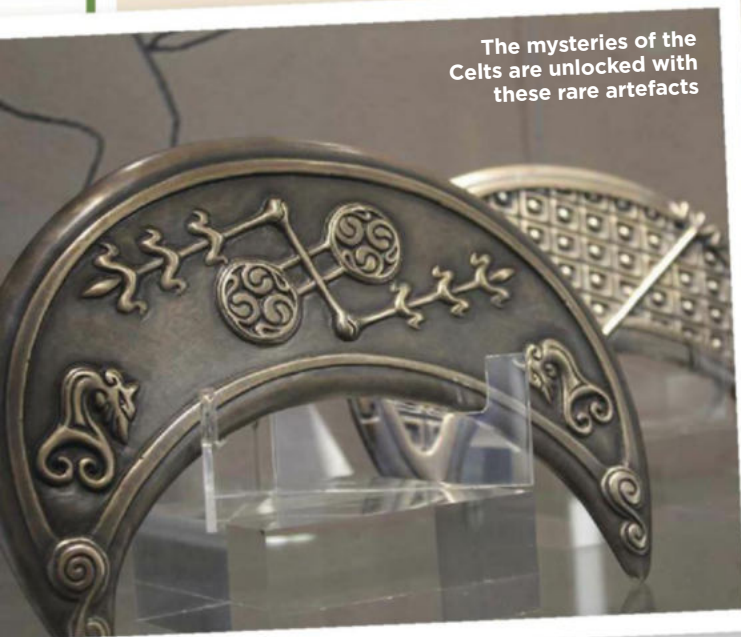
Longleat, Wiltshire, 11 November to 3 January.
See bit.ly/2d2BhK8

To celebrate the stately home's 50th anniversary of public opening, the house will be decked out in traditional Edwardian fashion, with feature décor such as hot-house greenery and lavish garlands. Celebrate your Christmas in Downton Abbey style by speaking to the period-appropriate butlers and servants, who truly bring the splendid era to life. Larger groups can also be treated to an Edwardian lunch, served as if you were lords and ladies of the manor itself.

Immerse yourself in the opulence of a bygone era at Longleat House



The mysteries of the Celts are unlocked with these rare artefacts



EXHIBITION

Reflections on Celts

McManus Galleries, Dundee. Until 5 December. bit.ly/2ejRITO

Was Celtic Scotland really the wild, barbaric place the Romans made it out to be? Explore the relationship and learn about inter-tribal communication between Celts in England and in Scotland by examining Iron Age artefacts, including two intricately decorated mirrors that are on lease from the British Museum and the National Museum of Scotland.

EVENT

Christmas at a Victorian Mill

Etruria Industrial Museum, Stoke on Trent, 3-4 December. Full details at bit.ly/2eJvknq

Although Christmas spent at an industrial mill may not sound particularly festive, the Etruria Museum has laid on enough events to get even the biggest Scrooge in the seasonal spirit. Soak up the atmosphere and learn how the mill contributed to Britain's Industrial Revolution, plus Santa will be in his grotto there.





Besiege your colleagues with a working catapult

TO BUY

Catapult Pencil Sharpener

£2.99, British Museum. Available from <http://bit.ly/2en8Sfy>

A great gift, this fantastic little catapult not only takes you back to the Middle Ages, it also makes for an unusual stocking-filler this Christmas. As well as sharpening your pencils, the catapult and its wheels actually work, and is sure to delight both children and the young at heart.



Each year, members of the village dress up in period costume

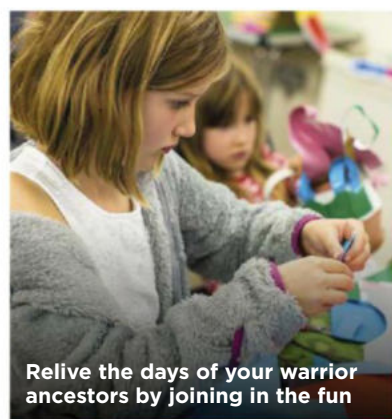
FESTIVAL

Dickensian Festival

Grassington, Yorkshire Dales, 3-11 December. Full details available at <http://grassingtondickensian.co.uk>

For nine days before Christmas, Grassington travels back in time for the annual Dickensian Festival. This year, it's the 100th anniversary, and shopkeepers, pub owners and even shoeshine boys are there to welcome you. Weekend markets are a feast for the senses – the sounds, sights and smells of the Victorian

era blend together for a classic Christmas experience. Punch and Judy shows, craft fairs and chestnuts roasted on an open fire will raise your Christmas spirit. You can also befriend some reindeers and listen to carols sung against a backdrop of the Yorkshire Dales.



Relive the days of your warrior ancestors by joining in the fun

EVENT

Warrior Activity Day

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, 30 December. Find out more at <http://bit.ly/2e90enf>

Run your hands over gilted replica swords, which were not only weapons, but status symbols too. Take part in fun activities, and listen to tales of Anglo-Saxon adventure around a cosy campfire.

EVENT

Elizabethan Christmas

Hampton Court Palace, 21-23 December and 27 December to 1 January. <http://bit.ly/2dsmCDX>

A re-enactment of a traditional Tudor Christmas promises to be exciting for all the family. Transport yourself back to 1592, and meet Queen Elizabeth I and her royal court at her father's home, Hampton Court Palace, as it celebrates the festive season in regal style. Join the Queen for fascinating live drama, historic Christmas cookery and music – and don't get yourself beheaded!



Be careful not to get on the wrong side of the Queen, who will be watching you



► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- **Titanic: Window on Emigration.** Explore a third-class cabin and hear passengers' stories. Ulster American Folk Park, N Ireland, until 31 January 2017. bit.ly/2eoX3GI
- **Kenwood House Tours.** Take an exclusive look at some of London's finest paintings. Kenwood House, London, dates throughout December. bit.ly/2eovOMr

ECHOES OF THE PAST

The Mount's Cornish name, *Karrek Loos yn Koos*, translates as 'grey rock in the wood', and harks back to when it was not set in water, but in woodland

END OF THE PIER

St Michael's Mount's **place as a harbour** is also a crucial part of its charm. In particular, it has its **own pier**, originally built as far back as the 1400s.



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

ST MICHAEL'S MOUNT Cornwall

The murder crime scene of ancient Cornish giants, or simply a holiday destination straight out of every fairytale book, the Mount is Cornwall's jewel

GETTING THERE:

If the direction 'aim south-west and just keep going' is not enough, drivers can follow the A30 east, or the A394 to Penzance. The nearest train station is at Penzance, and a bus service reaches Marazion from there.



TIMES AND PRICES:

Open 10.30am-4pm Tuesday and Friday, with extended opening over Christmas and summer. Closed January 2017. National Trust members get in free.

FIND OUT MORE:

Call 01736 710265 or visit www.stmichaelsmount.co.uk

The glistening tidal island of St Michael's Mount juts from the North Atlantic sea about as far south-west as you can travel in the UK without starting to doggy paddle to France.

The area's fully substantiated history stretches back at least to the 7th century, when a monastery was established that would later be gifted by Edward the Confessor to the tump's twin, Mont St Michel in Normandy— an arrangement that lasted until Henry V's French campaigns in the 15th century.

However, Neolithic artefacts have been found in the gardens, from a time when the mount would have been a hill surrounded

by a forest. Some say it is the tin trading port of Ictis, referred to by Greek author Posidonius. And so perhaps we shouldn't scoff too loudly at the idea that this was the site of the greatest triumph of one of Britain's most valiant heroes.

YOU KNOW JACK

The name 'Jack' sends many vibrations down the annals of British folklore, but it's the figure of the giant killer of that name that has achieved the most lasting fame. According to his most feted fight, St Michael's Mount was the home of the giant Cormoran, who stood 18-feet tall and was fond of dining on the local human

populace – until Jack moseyed into town, lured the big bully into an immense pit and finished him off with an axe to the top of his head.

Myriad tall tales were attributed to this 'Jack', many of them tied in with Arthurian legend (which makes it unlikely that he was the 'Englishman' sniffed out after climbing that infamous beanstalk). But although most folklore has its roots in real history, there's no way of finding out what historical events were being wildly fictionalised in the earliest fireside stories. Was Jack a Cornish warrior who defeated an enemy tribe at St Michael's Mount, and lived to exaggerate the tale?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



STEPPING STONES

At low tide, you can walk to the Mount via a causeway – heightened to deal with the ever-rising tides



MARAZION

Just opposite the island is the small coastal town of Marazion, which was not even mentioned in the *Domesday Book*, but is perfect for those who like a quiet life.



MARAZION MARSH

Near the town of Marazion you'll find one of the country's finest RSPB bird reserves, famed for its reed bed, and festooned with wading species, including bitterns.



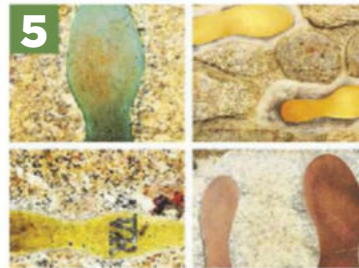
THE GARDEN

With such beautiful buildings abounding, you wouldn't expect to get sidelined by plants, but the Gulf Stream means that the Mount's flora is breathtaking.



THE CASTLE

There are few picture-postcard-perfect fairytale castles like this – perhaps why this one's starred in *Dracula*, *Never Say Never Again*, and even famous BBC ident.



FOOTSTEPS

Bronze footsteps have been wrought into the ground to show where famous rulers have walked in the past – not including Perkin Warbeck in that group, of course.



MONT SAINT-MICHEL

Okay, this isn't somewhere you can just wander off to on your visit, but the Norman tidal island is a perfect mirror of the Cornish mount, albeit slightly larger.

“The Mount needs no unfeasibly tall villain to be fascinating”

Luckily, although a sheen of mythology does add romance to a historical site, the Mount needs no unfeasibly tall villain to be a fascinating tourist destination.

CORNISH PASSION

The old kingdom of Kernow has often been the source of rebellion within Britain over the years, and the Yorkist pretender Perkin Warbeck took the Mount at the start of his 1497 invasion, which swiftly ended with his capture and derisory parading through the streets of London. Only a few decades later, in 1549, the Mount's governor Humphrey Arundell led a rebellion against Edward VI.

By the following century, the opposite attitude to the monarchy had taken root, and the Mount

was besieged for months by Cromwell's forces until they finally managed to bring it under Parliament's control.

But generally, the charm of the island is its unspoilt, fragile beauty. A place of pilgrimage since long before the arrival of the Saxons, a shrine to the Virgin Mary used to stand on the beach to greet visitors on their way up the hill to the monastic buildings where the castle currently sits.

The castle itself has been in the St Aubyn family since 1659, they having bought it 13 years after its Civil War siege. In the 1950s, descendant the 3rd Baron St Levan donated the property to the National Trust, retaining a handy 999-year lease for the family to remain living there.

Visitors can wander the ancient corridors and appreciate the well-preserved antiquity of the closest thing to a fairytale castle we have in the UK. Visits from royalty including Queen Victoria and Edward VII are commemorated by bronze footprints where they stood, and there's also the last Scotch gauge railway in Britain – a small underground locomotive designed to bring luggage up to the castle from the shore.

In 1755, an earthquake in Lisbon raised water levels by two metres in ten minutes, claiming many lives, and few British sites could be so endangered by rising water levels. One day, the Mount may be submerged. Until then, it's a unique blend of mystical mythology and frozen history. 📍

WHY NOT VISIT...

Once you've reached Land's End, what is there to see?

LAND'S END

15 miles across the peninsula, on the west coast, is the area long chosen to stand for the furthest southern tip of the country. John O'Groats is a quick 603-mile stroll to the north.

www.landsend-landmark.co.uk

PENZANCE

Made famous by Gilbert and Sullivan, this pirate-plagued seaside town makes the most of its maritime heritage and idyllic beaches. www.penzance.co.uk

MARAZION

St Michael's Mount's nearest settlement claims to be Cornwall's oldest town, and while it has little of historical import, it does have two world-class beaches. www.marazion.info

BOOK REVIEWS

This month's best historical books

Game of Queens: The Women who Made Sixteenth Century Europe

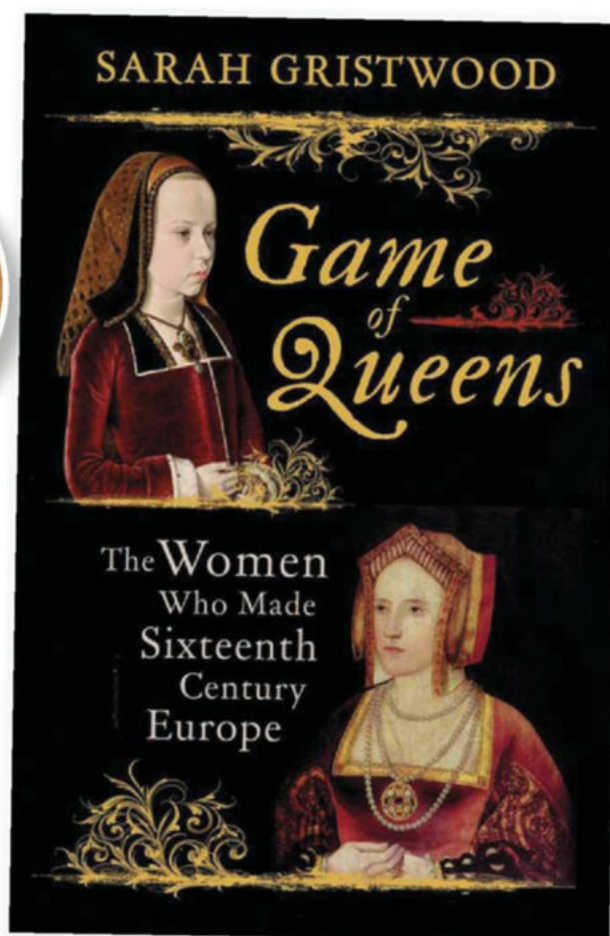
By Sarah Gristwood

Oneworld, £20, 416 pages, hardback

BOOK
OF THE
MONTH

It's a regrettable fact that much of history – or, at least, much of our view of it – remains dominated by men. But not in this new book from Tudor historian Sarah Gristwood, which documents an age when a group of high-profile women held positions of power across Europe. Some, such as Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I, are familiar – others, including Isabella of Castile and Jeanne d'Albret, may be less so. Gristwood brings them all to life with her usual mix of character study and pacy narrative, charting their (often familial) relationships as they weathered religious strife and personal opposition.

“Gristwood brings them to life with her usual mix of character study and pacy narrative”



The women of Henry VIII's court are examined in detail in Gristwood's latest tome

MEET THE AUTHOR

Best-selling Tudor biographer and journalist **Sarah Gristwood** explains why the 16th century was pivotal in the development of women's rights

Which characters do you explore in your new book?

Game of Queens concerns the chains of women and power running through 16th-century Europe, from mother to daughter and mentor to protégé. So alongside figures as famous as Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I, you've got women such as Marguerite of Navarre and her daughter Jeanne d'Albret, or Margaret of Austria and her niece Mary of Hungary, who are nothing like as well-known in this country.

How difficult was the world in which they operated?

This was the century in which John Knox could write about the "monstrous regiment" of women. On the one hand, great chunks of Europe were ruled by a woman, whether they actually sat on the throne themselves, or acted as regent for some male relative. But on the other, the 'queens regnant' in particular had to contend with a huge amount of open misogyny - and especially with the assumption that when they married, it would be their husbands who really ran the country.

How did they support each other?

Some of them were famously at enmity, especially as the century wore on, and Europe came to be divided along religious lines. Take Elizabeth Tudor versus Mary, Queen of Scots, for instance, or the Catholic Catherine de Medici versus the Protestant Jeanne d'Albret. But earlier on, they were very much aware of their bonds as female leaders. The French governor Anne de Beaujeu actually wrote a manual of instruction for powerful women, urging

them to take charge of their own affairs and not rely on anybody.

How did the way in which they ruled affect the culture around them?

It was in this period, in the Spain ruled by Isabella of Castile, that the queen in the game of chess first gained the wide powers that she has today. That's partly what gave

me the title for my book - that, and a certain TV series!

Are any of the women particular favourites of yours?

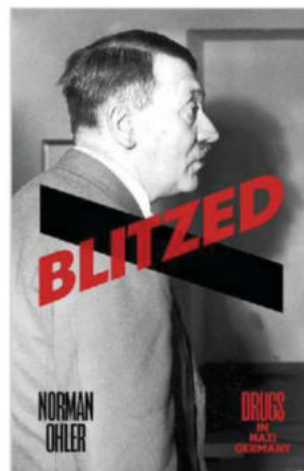
I'm one of those people who admires Elizabeth I more than any other ruler - and everyone who writes about the Tudor period wants to have a crack at Anne Boleyn. But I'm also fascinated by Margaret of Austria. Having lost three husbands by her early 20s, she settled down to govern the Netherlands, and play the great game of European diplomacy. She was so successful that they called her the mother of Europe - a kind of Angela Merkel of her day.

What lessons do you think this episode has for the 21st century?

We're entering another age when women exercise unprecedented power - but when, five centuries on, they can still be attacked. You only have to watch the US presidential debates between Clinton and Trump to see the same emphasis on a powerful woman's physical body, the same difficulty in her seeming authoritative without losing her femininity. So I guess the real lesson is that we should be aware of our history - and make sure that this second Age of Queens doesn't end as it did in the 16th century.



"It was in this period that the queen in the game of chess first gained the wide powers that she has today"

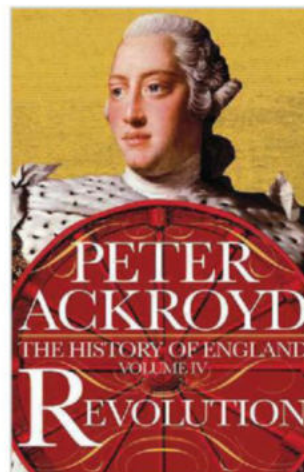


Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany

By Norman Ohler

Allen Lane, £20, 368 pages, hardback

This book hit the headlines and, with its 'Nazis on drugs' theme, it's not hard to see why. The range of substances it traces is boggling: cocaine, morphine, crystal meth, being used by everyone from factory workers to the highest levels of command. Refreshingly, Norman Ohler doesn't overstate his claims, letting the remarkable story speak for itself.

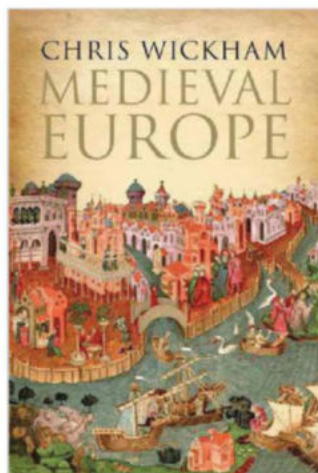


The History of England Volume IV: Revolution

By Peter Ackroyd

Macmillan, £25, 352 pages, hardback

The latest in Peter Ackroyd's ongoing series spans the years between 1688 and 1815, a period - as you can probably guess from the book's subtitle - characterised by upheaval and unrest. From the 'Glorious' Revolution to the Battle of Waterloo, with visits to bankers, playwrights and printers along the way, this is a vivid examination of the era.

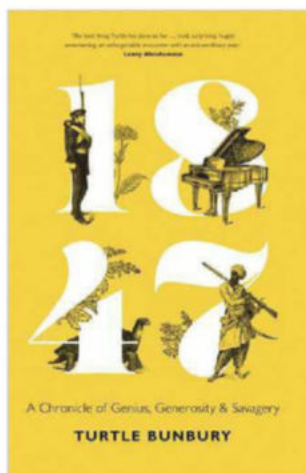


Medieval Europe

By Chris Wickham

Yale University Press, £25, 352 pages, hardback

Whether you're fascinated by the Middle Ages' epic sweep or daunted by their sheer scale, this is certainly comprehensive, taking in everything from the Byzantine and Holy Roman empires to the grim march of the Black Death. Vibrantly drawn characters and compellingly told stories help prevent things from becoming too overwhelming.

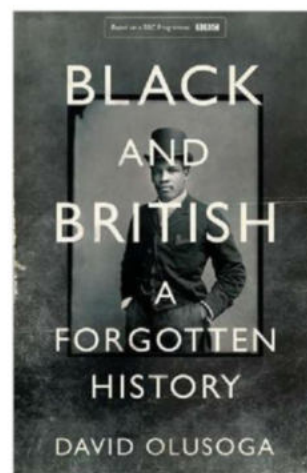


1847

By Turtle Bunbury

Gill Books, £21.99, 320 pages, hardback

While 170 years isn't the most immediate anniversary, 2017's fast-approaching dawn isn't the key inspiration for this compendium of stories – instead, it's because the author grew up in a house built in that auspicious year. Whatever the reason for its conception, this is a sprightly look at some of the major figures in an era of rapid development and restless innovation.

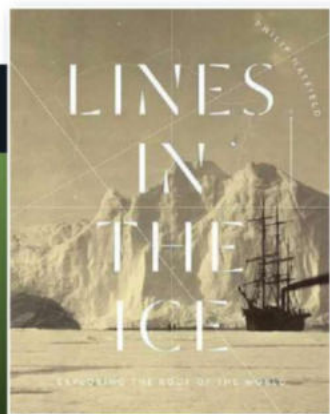


Black and British: A Forgotten History

By David Olusoga

Macmillan, £25, 592 pages, hardback

Published to accompany a major new BBC series, this is an insightful, inclusive history of black people in Britain. And it's a longer history than many might think, too, stretching back to the Roman era. Rich in detail and packed with strong personalities, this is an important contribution to our understanding of life in the UK.



Lines in the Ice is richly illustrated throughout with topographical views, innovative photography and maps

Lines in the Ice: Exploring the Roof of the World

By Philip Hatfield

British Library, £25, 256 pages, hardback

What is the pull of the magnetic north? Why have Europe's people been compelled to risk travelling to the Arctic for so long? These are some of the questions tackled in this elegantly produced visual history, which combines maps, photographs and scientific models to chart our changing relationship with this extraordinary region.

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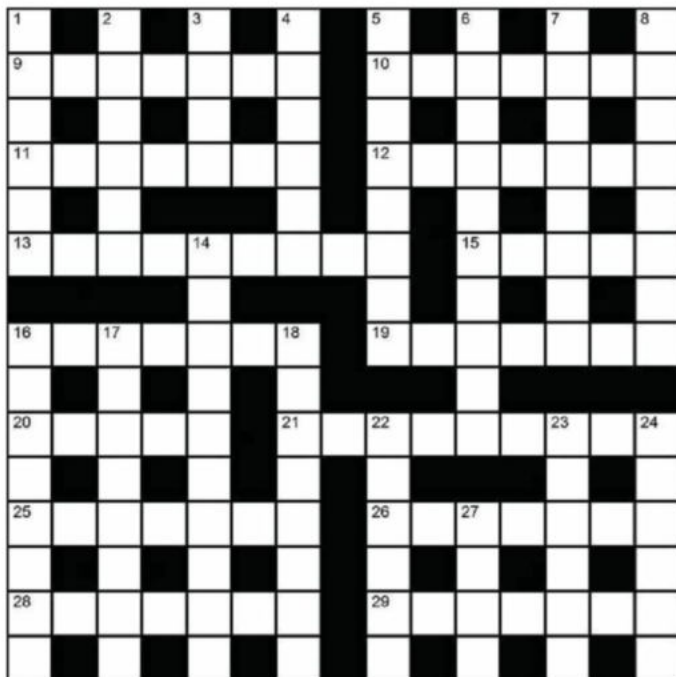
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CROSSWORD N° 36

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 9 ____ Field, 1513 battle in which James IV of Scotland was killed (7)
 10 Charles Lewis ____ (1812–1902), American jeweller (7)
 11 Baltic state of which Konstantin Päts (1874–1956) was the first President (7)
 12 'The medium is the ____' – Marshall McLuhan, 1964 (7)
 13 Alfredo ____ (1926–2014), Argentina-born footballer known as 'the Blond Arrow' (2,7)
 15 Dame Zaha Hadid or Saddam Hussein, for example? (5)
 16 Edmund ____ (d.1599), English poet, author of *The Faerie Queene* (1590) (7)
 19 'What is our task? To make

____ a country fit for heroes to live in' – David Lloyd George, 1918 (7)

- 20 ____ of Terror, period of political violence in France, 1793–1794 (5)
 21 1924 adventure novel by PC Wren (4,5)
 25 Jeremy 'Paddy' ____ (b.1941), former leader of the Liberal Democrats (7)
 26 Capital city of Venezuela, founded 1567 (7)
 28 Resort town in north-west Italy, site of a 1920 meeting of the Allied Supreme Council (3,4)
 29 Name given to the Spanish painter Doménikos Theotokópoulos (1541–1614) (2,5)

DOWN

- 1 Frank ____ (b.1937), Australian country and easy-listening singer (6)
 2 Hernán ____ (1485–1547), notorious Spanish Conquistador (6)
 3 East Of ____ , 1952 novel by John Steinbeck (4)
 4 Turkish city conquered by Alexander the Great in 333 BC (6)
 5 'The ____ is a paper tiger' – Mao Zedong, 1946 (4,4)
 6 Blaenau ____, historic Gwynedd town noted for its narrow-gauge railway (10)
 7 Sanskrit title for a great ruler or high king (8)
 8 In Greek myth, a Titan, father of Helios, Selene and Eos (8)
 14 Dwight D ____ (1890–1969), 34th president of the United States (10)
 16 Wide ____ Sea, 1966 novel by Jean Rhys (8)
 17 Christian festival usually celebrated on January 6 (8)
 18 Jackie ____ (1919–72), baseball player who broke the Major League 'colour bar' in 1947 (8)
 22 Historic German city; a royal residence of the emperor Charlemagne (6)
 23 David ____ (b.1946), English actor best-known for his roles in Agatha Christie adaptations (6)
 24 First intercity railway station in London, opened 1837 (6)
 27 Latvian city that joined the Hanseatic League in 1282 (4)

CHANCE TO WIN

Digging for Hitler

by Dr David Barrowclough. During the 1930s, the Nazis established a band of archaeologists and anthropologists to prove the superiority of the Aryan race. In his latest book, Dr Barrowclough tells their unbelievable story. Published by Fonthill Media, £25.



BOOK WORTH £25 FOR THREE WINNERS

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SOLUTION N° 34



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The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy.

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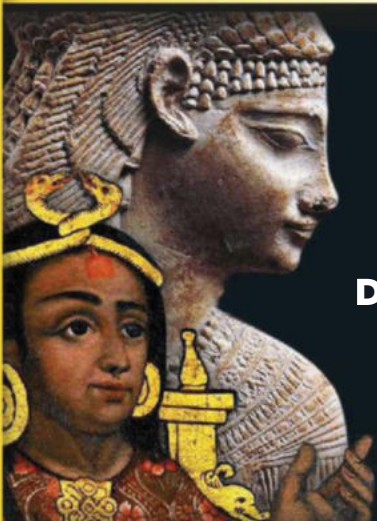
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KINGS AND QUEENS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

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A-Z of History

Yearning for years of yore? Then yield to **Nige Tassell's** yokelish yakking all about the letter Y

YO-YO

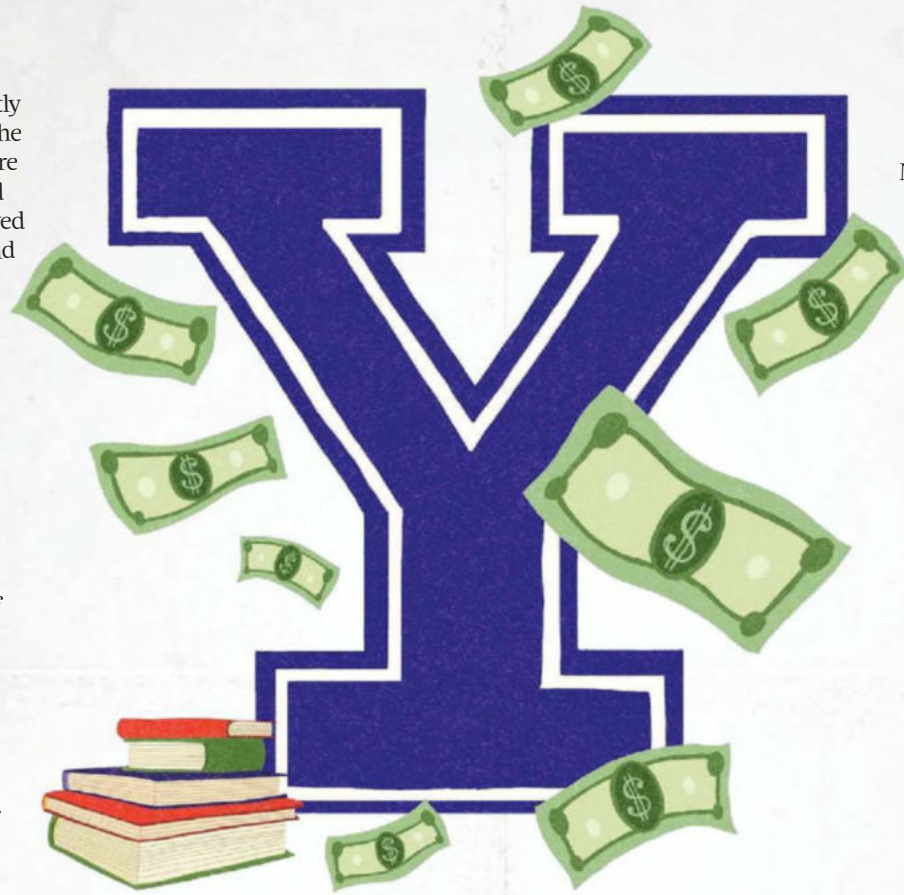
Although regarded as a distinctly 20th-century toy, the roots of the yo-yo go way, way deeper. There is evidence, both written and illustrative, that they were played with by Greek children around 500 BC. Often fashioned from terracotta, these primitive yo-yos were offered to certain Greek gods when the child came of age.

YPRES

The focus of intense fighting during World War I, the Belgian city of Ypres took an unofficial new name during the conflict. British soldiers, reluctant to adopt French pronunciation, deliberately chose to refer to the place as 'Wipers'. Indeed, a magazine created by and for British troops in the trenches was known as *The Wipers Times*.

Yard

The yard was originally a variable measurement, in that it was commonly the length of a man's belt around his waistline. In the 12th century, Henry I attempted to standardise the measurement, defining it to be the distance from his nose to the tip of his thumb when his arm was fully outstretched.



YETI

For many years, the hand of a suspected yeti was kept as a ritual artefact at Pangboche monastery in Nepal. In 1959, a British primatologist commissioned the explorer Peter Hill to acquire, by allegedly illicit means, one of the hand's fingers. The finger's passage to Britain was aided by the Hollywood actor James Stewart who, flying from India to London, hid the dubious digit in his wife's lingerie case.

YMCA

Aside from being the inspiration behind that perennial choreographed dance routine, the Young Men's Christian Association (aka YMCA) was something of an incubator for sport. The organisation was responsible for the invention of both basketball and volleyball.

YALE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1701, Yale University took its name from the British merchant and philanthropist Elihu Yale, despite allegations of financial irregularities involving him. A more honourable benefactor was Jeremiah Dummer, but the trustees of the fledgling institution likely felt that Dummer College just wasn't the correct name for a new seat of learning.

YURI'S URINE

As the first human to orbit Earth, Yuri Gagarin is held in great esteem, so much so that all Russian cosmonauts uphold a particular ritual before lift-off. They stop the bus taking them to the launch-pad and urinate over one of its rear wheels, just as Gagarin did before Vostok 1's voyage back in 1961.

YORKISTS

The idea that the competing 15th-century houses of York and Lancaster were signified exclusively by white and red roses isn't historically watertight. For instance, the white rose was but one of several Yorkist symbols. Indeed, the conflict wasn't referred to as the Wars of the Roses for the best part of another 400 years. It was known as the Cousins' War for centuries.



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Mons Memorial Museum



Mons Memorial Museum



Saint-Symphorien Military Cemetery

MONS: THE FIRST AND THE LAST

AN EMOTIONAL JOURNEY INTO WW1

Saint-Symphorien Military Cemetery

On the outskirts of the Belgian city of Mons, one of the most unusual and beautiful military cemeteries of WW1 welcomes visitors from all over the world, some of them anonymous, some of them famous, but all always full of respect and gratitude.

Nearly facing each other, two stones recall the names of the First and the Last British soldiers killed during WW1: Private John Parr, who was still a teenager when he died, and Private George Ellison, killed on 11.11.1918.

They are surrounded by the graves of British and German soldiers who have been resting there together in peace since 1916.



Saint-Symphorien Military Cemetery

Mons Memorial Museum

Opened in 2015, the Mons Memorial Museum invites you to travel through the histories of WW1 and WW2. Its permanent exhibition focuses not only on the military aspect of the conflicts, but also deals with the impact on civilian lives. Visitors of all ages are immersed in the realities of wartime events through the accounts of the lives of those men and women who witnessed the conflicts and the selection of exhibits from the extremely rich collection of objects belonging to the city of Mons.

A tour of the Mons Battlefield

Discover the Mons Battlefield from the Casteau-Soignies road where Corporal E. Thomas fired the first British shot on the Continent since Waterloo at nearly the same place where the Canadian troops of the 116th battalion ended WW1.

You can visit on your own with the help of the brochure available at the Mons Tourist Office or by using the free application The Great War Corps, Weapons and Peace. Or why not follow one of our specialised guides with a 3-hour tour, or a one-day programme for groups?

Save the date for the 2018 commemorations scheduled in November and be sure to join us.

A programme will be available on our website soon.

Get more information on

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